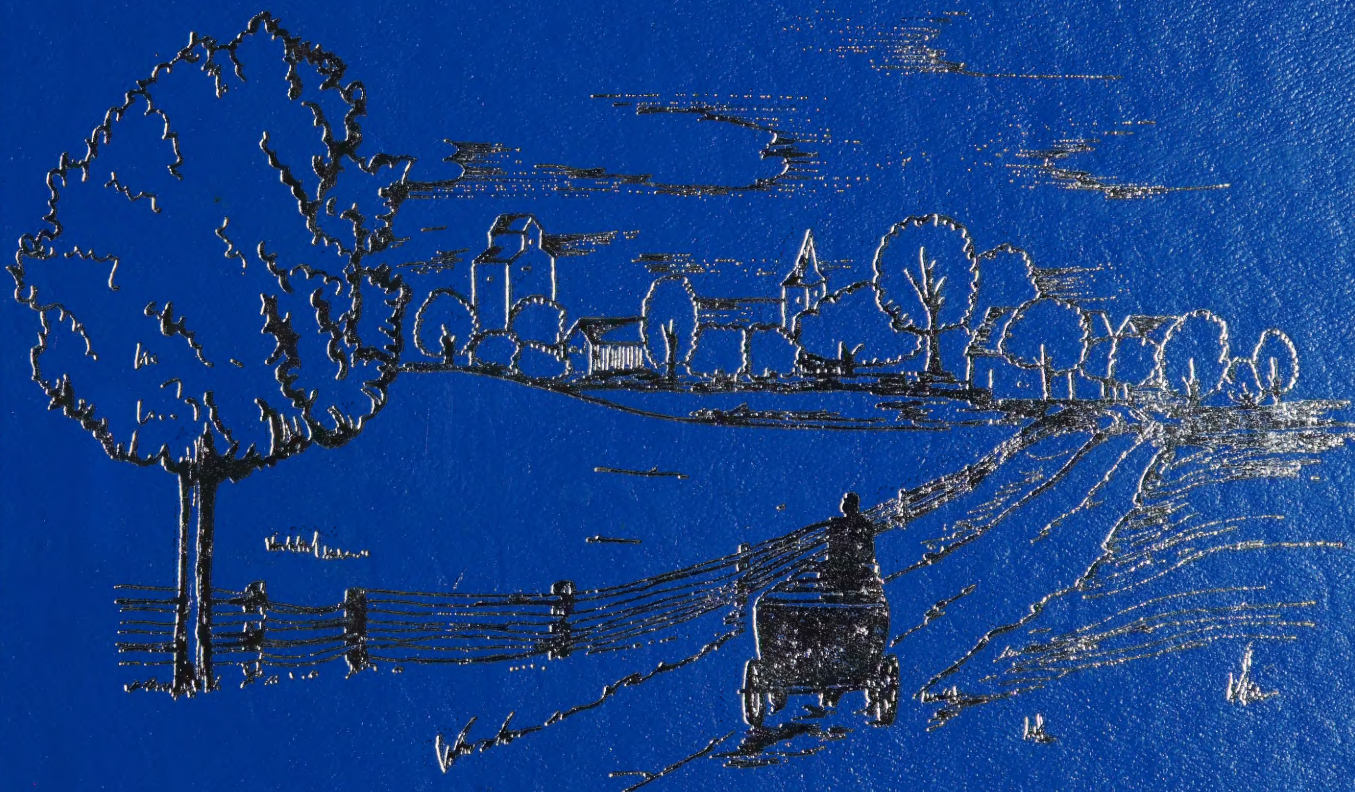




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DOWN MEMORY LANE

A History of Irma and District

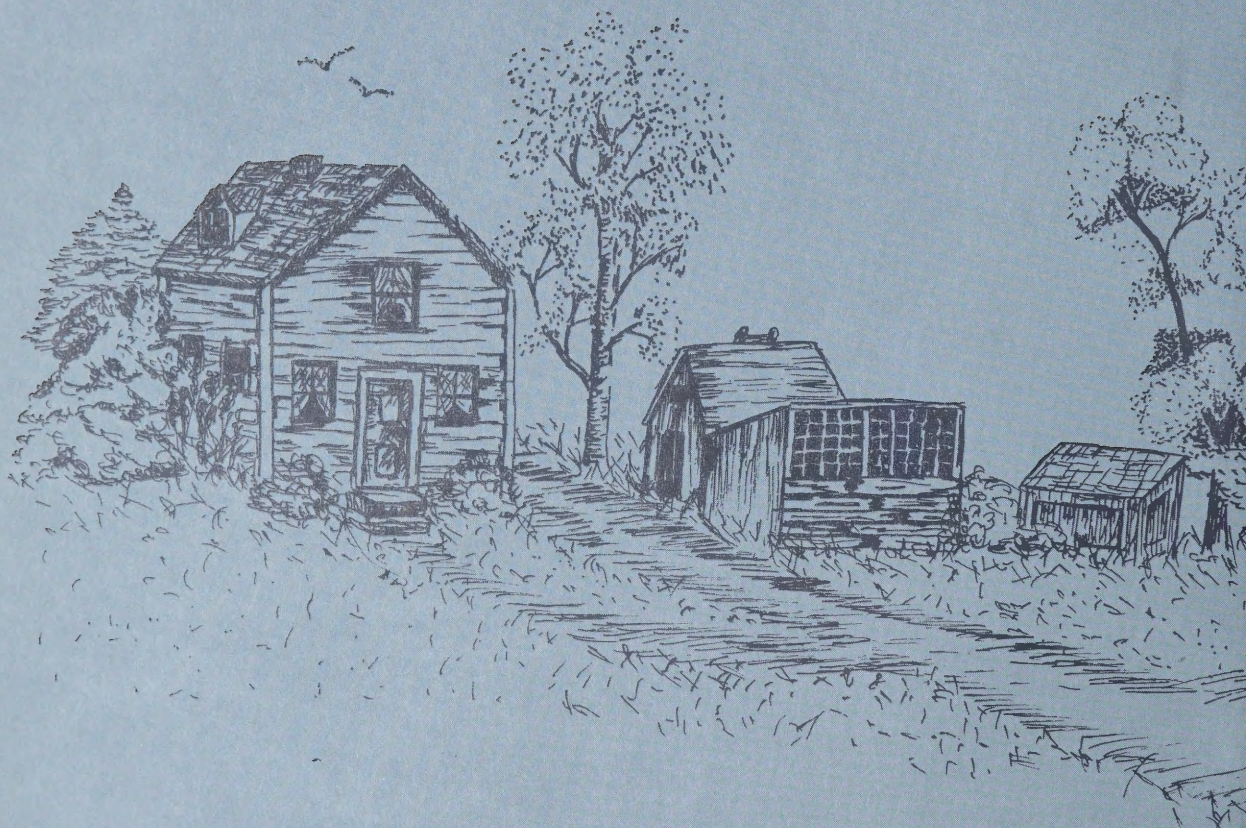
Volume I





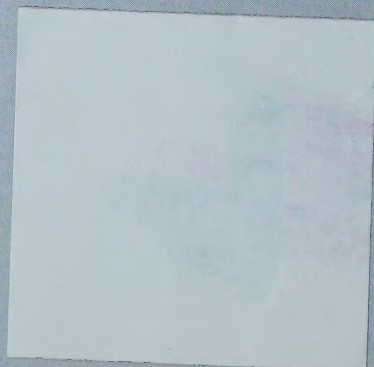
Alberta Wheat Pool.

g.jurvis.



*DOWN MEMORY'S LANE
WITH YOU*

*I'd like to stroll down Memory's Lane
Together, you and I -
And sing the songs we used to sing
In pleasant days gone by.
Our thoughts will bloom like flowers
And we'll gather every one.
We'll laugh at things we used to do;
The joyous things we've done
And then someday if God is good
Perhaps beneath the sky -
Hand in hand, we'll stroll once more
Together - You and I!*



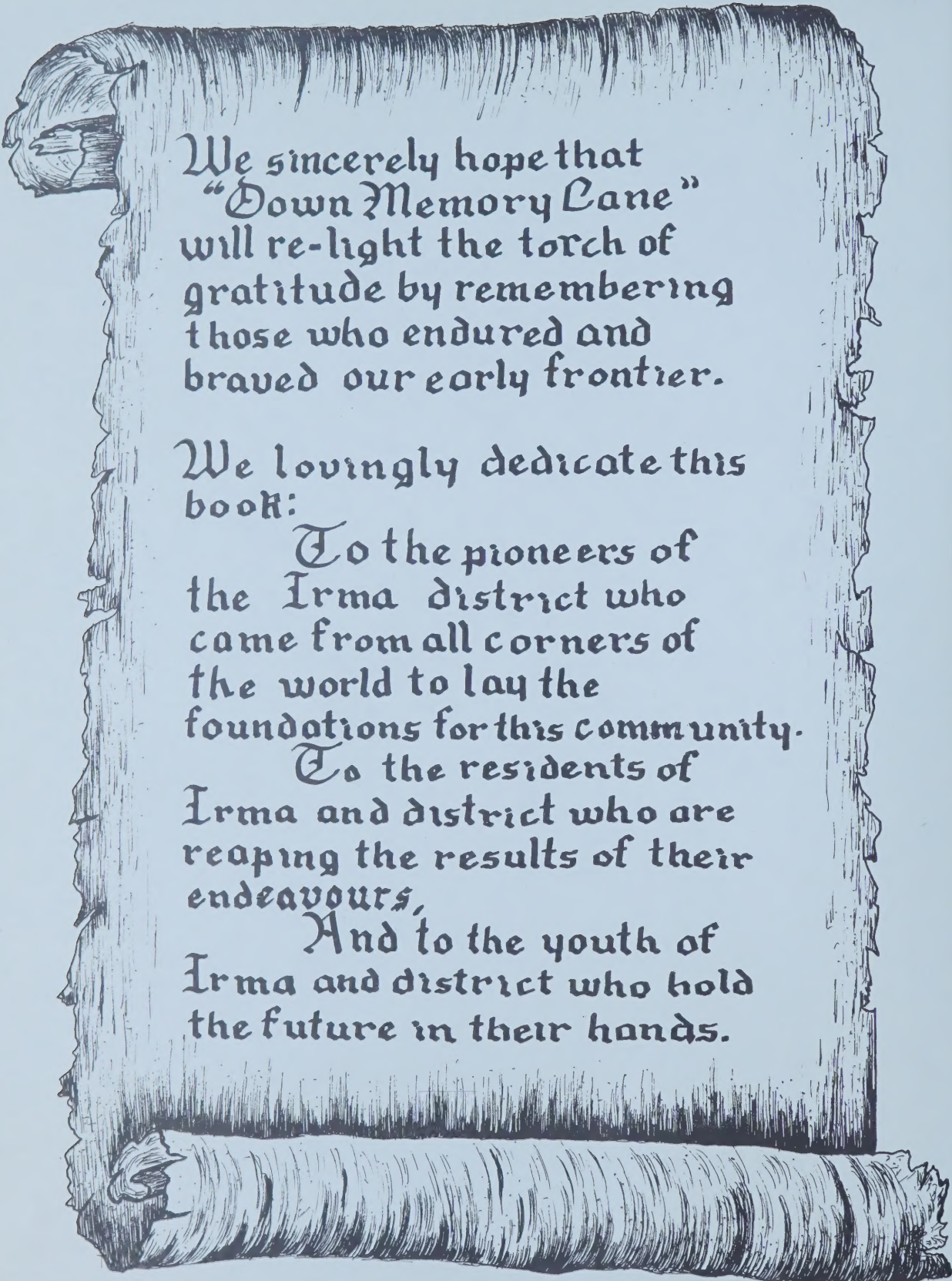
DOWN MEMORY LANE

A History of Irma and District



Compiled by Irma and District
Historical Society
Irma, Alberta
1985

Printed by Inter-Collegiate Press



We sincerely hope that
"Down Memory Lane"
will re-light the torch of
gratitude by remembering
those who endured and
braved our early frontier.

We lovingly dedicate this
book:

To the pioneers of
the Irma district who
came from all corners of
the world to lay the
foundations for this community.

To the residents of
Irma and district who are
reaping the results of their
endeavours,

And to the youth of
Irma and district who hold
the future in their hands.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For a number of years a great interest has been taken in publishing history books to record the history of local areas and the families included therein. In 1980 a group of interested people met at the school and formed the Irma Historical Society. Mary Newton was the first president. Nothing much was accomplished until 1982 when we began work in earnest. Members of the committee met each Thursday in the Drop-in Centre where we made our headquarters.

We dedicate our book "Down Memory Lane" to the pioneers of our area who through hardships and perseverance paved the way for our present way of life.

Our workers wish to acknowledge the use of the "Times of Irma" which saved us hours of research. We are indebted to the Seniors for the use of the Drop-in Centre as our headquarters and access to the Irma Times stored there.

Without the cooperation of many people our book could not have been published. Many thanks goes to those who wrote histories of their families or of former residents. A big thank-you to our faithful typists and to those who entrusted pictures to us.

We have tried hard to eliminate errors be it in spelling, dates or incorrect information. For those errors appearing we apologize.

Although we have contacted people by mail and phone and set a deadline for histories there are still some who did not send in their stories. We feel our book is poorer because of the omission of these histories, but we did try.



History Book workers Louisa Prosser, Doris Wakefield, Mary Newton, Hazel Oracheski, Phyllis Craig, Elsie McRoberts, Margaret Smith, Orril Darling, Adelaide Dootson, Lorna Jackson, Peggy Oracheski, Marjorie Fischer, Alma Enger and Marguerite Burr.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PRAIRIE PIONEERS

*Dedicated to that army of Homesteaders
who settled the Canadian Prairies.*

*One by one they're passing onwards, to
the place of their last rest
And their ranks are thinning slowly,
settlers of the Prairie West.
And they tell of deeds of valor, mighty
things that have been done
By these warriors of the Prairie, battles
lost and battles won.*

*Men and women in the vanguard, as
they pressed to the attack
Fear and doubts all hidden bravely, as
they pressed the frontier back.
Knowing not the fearful hardships,
knowing not the strength of foe
Girding for the lifelong conflict
knowing not for weal or woe.*

*Who could even know the heartaches,
secret tears of lonely bride
As across the treeless Prairie, onward
flowed the human tide.
Know the hopes and know the sorrows,
hidden deep within each breast
As they fought to gain a foothold, in
the bleak and lonesome West.*

*Soon their ranks were locked in combat
and the battle had begun
'Gainst the storms and cold of winter,
and the heat of summer sun,
Drought and pest, and frost that withered,
summer storms and lightning's dart -
Cyclones and the hailstorm's terror,
which could quail the stoutest heart.*

*And they soon felt nature's fury, and
it's devastating power
In the raging winds of summer, which
could make the bravest cower,
Met the fury of the tempest, and the
blizzard's blinding snow,
Hurled in fierce, unbridled passion,
by an unrelenting foe.*

*They have faced wild nature's onslaughts,
and it's fierce ungoverned power
Seen it in it's wildest moments, seen
it in it's calmest hour.
In the mirage of the morning, when
the air was clear and bright
Felt the wonder of creation, in a
starlit prairie night.*

*Saw the sunrays of the morning dart
across an empty land -
Saw the glory of the sunset, painted
by the Master's hand -
Saw the rainbows magic circle, and
the glistening sundog's threat -
Read the promise of the morrow,
in the way the sun had set.*

*Watched Aurora Borealis, in their
graceful weird display,
Ghostly dancers of the twilight, as they
turned the dusk to day
Whispering softly in the silence, as
they pranced across the sky -
And in awe and breathless wonder,
watched them fade away and die.*

*And their fading eyes remember, in
the distant years gone by
When the grasslands of the Prairie
seemed to touch the far-off sky;
When the starlit arcing splendor,
was the roof above their heads
And the prairie grass beneath, was
their pillows and their beds.*

*When the bricks with which they builded
were formed from new-plowed earth
And the shingles which they roofed with,
they were cut from prairie turf;
When they looked with pride and pleasure,
on the work done by their hands
And in secret longed for loved ones,
in their far-off native lands.*

*From the ox and from the horse age,
saw another age begin
When the silence of the Prairie, it
was shattered by the din
Of those clanking iron monsters, in
that period of change
When they turned the virgin grasslands,
into grain fields from the range.*

*And they came to love the Prairie,
and to till it's virgin soil
Gather from it rich resources, harvests
won by sweat and toil -
Saw great caravans of commerce, with
their loads of golden grain
Tribute to a conquered Prairie,
steaming forth across the plain.*

*Now in quiet meditation of the years
of long ago
In fancy one still sees them, as they
journey to and fro.
They stop and chat a moment, as
they pass the time of day -
Give a cheery word in parting, as
they go upon their way.*

*And one's quiet thought pay tribute
to the lonely pioneer
To those women and their menfolk,
who tamed a bleak frontier,
To that passing generation, who
built the Prairie West -
The ones who are still living and
the ones who are at rest.*

Alice H. Lymburner

JULY 23, 1946 — EDMONTON BULLETIN

Mercury Dips Low In Freak Weather

Freak weather appears to be persisting in Edmonton. Following on the heels of Sunday's violent wind storm, temperature over Monday night sank down to one of the lowest experienced in July since 1922. Although no frost was felt in the city, the mercury hit a low of 33 degrees, and in Whitecourt, five degrees of frost was recorded. Vermilion showed a low of 31 degrees. Ardrossan reported a light frost.

EDMONTON'S 33 DEGREES, which was recorded at 4.30 Tuesday morning, was surpassed on July 1 1919, when 31 degrees was noted and on July 24, 1918, and July 24, 1922 when the temperature went down to 29.

The Tuesday morning low is the 4th lowest to be recorded in this city in 52 years.

FROM NOON ON Sunday, when the mercury registered a year-high temperature of 88 until 4.30 a.m. Tuesday, the temperature has shown an almost unbelievable drop

of 55 degrees. HOWEVER THE forecast given for today and Wednesday shows a promise of warmer weather, with an estimated high Wednesday of 78 degrees, and an estimated overnight low of 42. Cloudy weather is forecast for Tuesday afternoon with a gradual clearing toward evening. A south wind of 10 miles an hour is foreseen for Wednesday afternoon.



The MacMillan Family surveying the washout in 1965, just south of their place.

1907 had deep snow and a late spring also

Sirs: The deep snow and late spring on the Western Canadian Prairies brings back memories to old timers of the bad winter and late spring of 1907.

That was the winter when many big ranches in Alberta were wiped out. Cattle were found dead piled against the CPR fences for nearly two hundred miles. Some big companies lost up to five thousand head. Seven hundred cattle were frozen in one pile in the valley of the little Boro River alone.

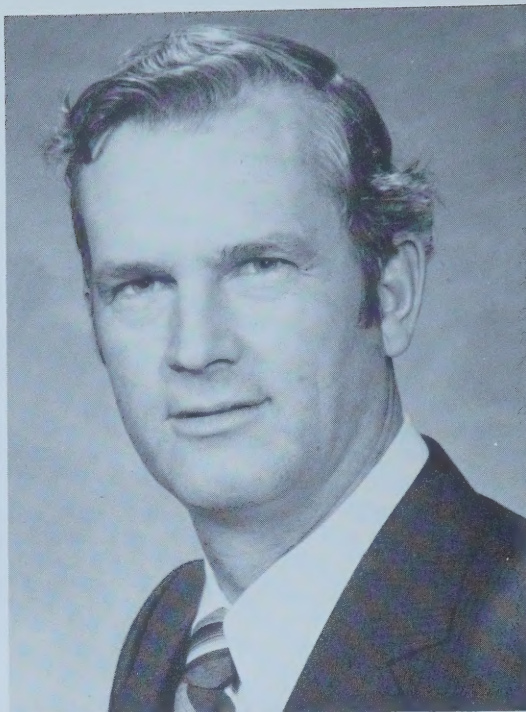
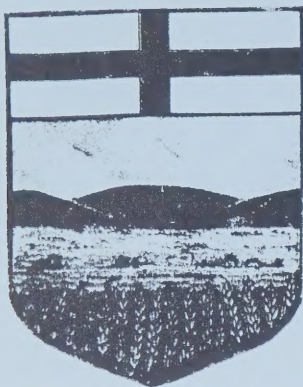
Pat Burns and W. H. McIntyre were among the heavy losers. It took the CNR snow plough almost a week to clear the track from Saskatoon to Regina after the big snow storm and blizzard the first week in May. Seeding did not get started in Saskatchewan until the last week in May.

Quite a few farmers from Southern Manitoba shipped their outfits west that year to stook and stack thresh. Some remained to break the prairie sod pulling 10 bottom plows in the summer of 1908. We hope that the extra moisture may bring another good crop this year despite the late spring.

Early May snowstorm in 1955;
Pendleton garage under construction.



PROVINCE OF ALBERTA



MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE MARY J. LEMESSURIER, MINISTER OF CULTURE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE IRMA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOK PUBLICATION "DOWN MEMORY LANE"

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it gives me great pleasure to convey congratulations and best wishes to the Irma and District Historical Society, on the publication of this book, "Down Memory Lane", a history of Irma and district.

The hard work and unique history of the early settlers contributed greatly to the development and character of the Province of Alberta, and I know your book will express the pride we all feel in the courage and determination shown by pioneers such as those who settled in this area.

This book will most certainly become a permanent record that will enshrine for future generations the strong sense of community and the tremendous achievements that have been accomplished by these pioneers.

To the Irma District Historical Society, I offer my warmest congratulations.

Mary J. LeMessurier
Minister of Culture

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ALBERTA

June 20, 1984

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the members of the Irma History Book Committee and to all those who contributed to this fitting tribute to our pioneer ancestors. The effort and care that has gone into this book is greatly appreciated by our community.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the early settlers of our area; they prepared the way for a prosperous future in our province. This account of Irma's history serves as an excellent reminder of the worth of the traditional values of hard work and determination.

May we learn from our past, in order to prepare for a brighter future.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Fischer, M.L.A.
Wainwright Constituency



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

The Honourable Don Mazankowski, P. C., M. P.

I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to all those associated with the publication of *The Irma History Book*.

Books such as this become a valuable part of our Canadian history. They are also a reminder of the richness of our cultural heritage.

Please accept my best wishes for every success.

Don Mazankowski

MESSAGE FROM JAMES CHRISTENSEN
A MESSAGE FROM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
OF WAINWRIGHT NO. 61

We, the M.D. Council, would like to congratulate Irma and district for composing a history book. It shows that this generation appreciates the efforts of the pioneers who ventured to the unknown land of promise. Many left their families and friends to challenge the opening of the west, to build homes, schools, churches and provide the needs of growing families.

Most settlers had only the trade of their hands with little or no experience in farming or business. The men and women who built this country through good and bad times were the people whose faith in the future was unshakeable.

An Alberta history quote, says that along the Battle River, near Irma, Anthony Henday in the fall of 1754, traded a gun for a horse while he was visiting the Assiniboine camp and thus became the first white horse trader in Alberta.

You, the new generation should keep looking ahead for the future looks better with the oil industry and agriculture. Irma, like the rest of the municipality, will no doubt progress, grow, and flourish in the years to come. We hope all the dreams that the pioneers had will be fulfilled.

Sincerely
James R. Christensen
(Reeve)
of Municipal District of
Wainwright No. 61

GREETINGS FROM THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

In 1987 the Village of Irma will be celebrating its Seventy-fifth Anniversary of incorporation. At that time we will be reminiscing the days gone by. Too often the experiences of our ancestors are unknown and forgotten to the present generation.

On behalf of the Village Council "Thanks" to the Irma Historical Society for bridging this gap.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Dempsey".

Ronald Dempsey, Mayor.



Irma 1985.

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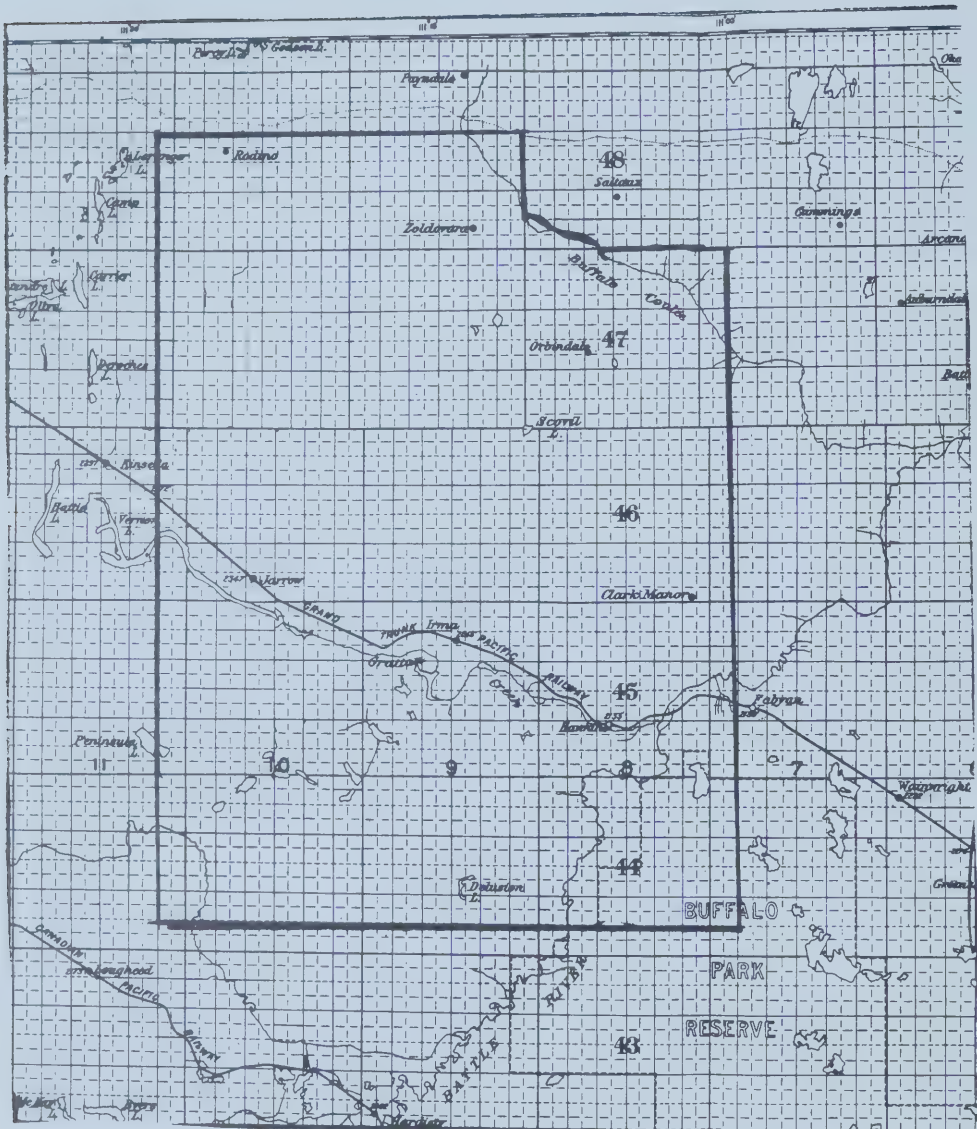
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To the best of our ability this book has been done alphabetically throughout each chapter, excepting where late additions made it impossible.

LAND DIVISION MAP

APRIL 1, 1916



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CHAPTER 1

EARLY HISTORY



Ed Armstrong, John Campbell, James Fenton, Johnson Armstrong, Eldon Fenton, May Armstrong, Lex Campbell, Bessie Fenton, Cassie Armstrong, Edgar Armstrong, May Fenton, Loris Armstrong, Gordon Fenton, Georgina Fenton, Inez Fenton, Esther Armstrong.

EARLY HISTORY

In preparing a history of an area in Canada we must remember that Indians lived here for many, many years before our forefathers came. We don't know too much about early life in Canada because there was no clear history before the 1700's. We know Indians lived here because many Indian artifacts have been found including pemmican in our area.

What is now the prairie provinces was rich grazing land and supported large herds of buffalo. These animals were important to the Indian because it provided them with food, furs for clothing, hides for covering their teepees and bones from which they made tools, sinews for strings for their bows.

There was other wild life too. Antelope was plentiful, wild prairie chickens, partridges, ducks, geese, and beaver were plentiful. Weasels and muskrats provided furs for clothing also. Wild fruit was plentiful. Some of these fruits were used in the making of pemmican.

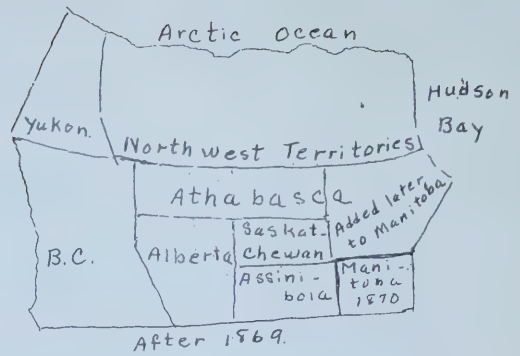
It was in the mid 1700's before the Indians had horses. These horses had escaped from the Spanish explorers in the south. They had increased in number because the Great Central Plain of North America provided a suitable home for them. The Blackfoot Indians used them in their buffalo hunts.

With the coming of the White Man things changed for the Indians. The gifts of the White Man, fur trading, the horse and the gun influenced Tribal movement and changes in culture.

The first white man to enter Alberta was Anthony Henday in 1754 and was an agent for the Hudson's Bay Trading Company. He was to try to get the Blackfoot Indians to trade with the Company. Another Hudson's Bay man was Peter Fidler. He came to Alberta in 1784. He made the first map of Central Alberta and he recorded all his findings.

Missionaries followed the fur traders. These people worked among the Indians and built many missions here in the Parkland area of Alberta.

When the fur trade slackened men began to take notice of the land itself, noting its possibilities, rich soil, natural resources such as coal and forests with suitable "lumber" trees. They realized the prairies would be good farming country. Settlers started to settle mostly in the Red River



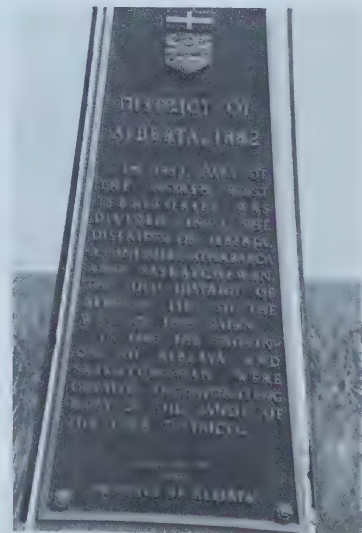
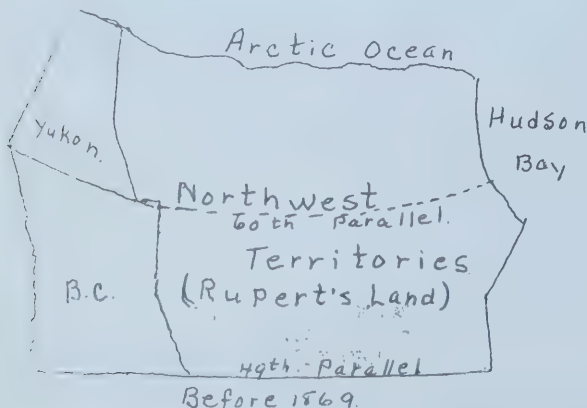
area of Manitoba.

Up until 1869 the vast area of rich fertile soil extending from Hudson Bay to the Rockies was controlled by the Hudson's Bay Trading Company and was known as Rupert's Land. It was so named after Prince Rupert.

The opening of the "West" began in earnest in 1869. This was the year the Hudson's Bay Company surrendered its Charter Rights to Rupert's Land. In return for this huge area the new nation of Canada paid the Hudson's Bay Company 300,000 sterling and gave a total of forty-five thousand acres around its many trading posts, also one-twentieth of the land in the areas of agricultural settlement. This would be all of section eight and three-quarters of section twenty-six in all townships south of the North Saskatchewan River. In every fifth township they got all of section twenty-six. This vast area became known as the Northwest Territories, extending from the forty-ninth parallel to the Arctic Ocean and from Hudson Bay to the Rockies.

The province of Manitoba was made in the southeast corner of the Northwest Territories in 1870. The remainder of the Territories south of the sixtieth parallel was divided into four electoral districts: Athabasca, Saskatchewan, Assiniboia, and Alberta.

In 1905 these districts were made into the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.



N

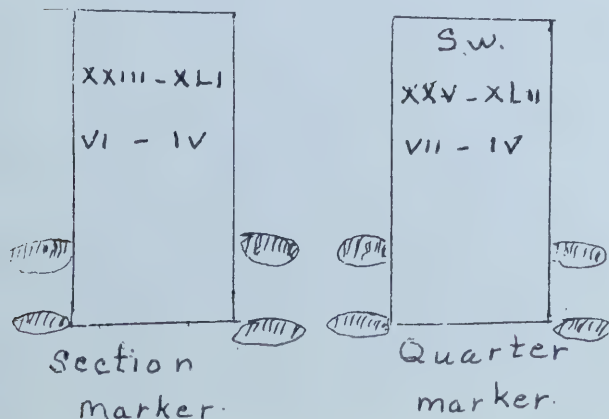
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W

The position of the Roads East and West indicated by a wide line. North and South indicated by a single line.

In 1869 the largest and most orderly survey of the land was begun. The area was divided into Ranges and Townships. In order to get a starting point a line running north from the forty-ninth parallel was surveyed just west of Winnipeg. This was the first meridian. Ranges were six miles wide and were numbered from East to West. The fourth meridian is the boundary between Alberta and Saskatchewan. The townships are six miles square and are numbered from south to north. Each township has thirty-six sections. Each section is a mile square and has six hundred and forty acres. The sections are divided into quarters, each quarter having one hundred and sixty acres. The survey identification for each section was four holes and a steel peg in the centre. The section, township and range were marked on the peg in Roman Numerals. The quarter section identification was four holes with a wooden peg in the centre. All of these parcels of land were registered at the Land Titles Office and could be easily located.



As the meridians extend northward they come closer together because of the earth's curvature. In order to keep the townships as square as possible it was necessary to have "Correction Lines" run east and west every twenty-four miles. The townships north of the Correction Line are given their full width of six miles. This makes a "jog" in the north and south road every twenty-four miles.

The Government of Canada gave the C.P.R. the odd numbered sections in this vast area as part payment for building the railway from Eastern Canada to the Pacific Coast. This tied the new nation together. The even numbered sections, except those kept by the Hudson's Bay Company - eight and twenty-six, were classified as Homestead Lands. This would encourage settlement west of Winnipeg as the cost was ten dollars for clerical fees. The land itself was free. Sections eleven and twenty-nine were reserved as School Land.

The Homestead Act was passed in 1882, setting forth certain rules concerning these Homestead Lands:

1. The settler had to be or become a Canadian Citizen.
2. Any section designated as Homestead Land, in what became the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, could be homesteaded by any person, male or female - who was the sole head of a family, or any male over the age of eighteen, could obtain one quarter section (one hundred and sixty acres).

3. An application had to be made in person by the applicant at a Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-agency, for the district in which the land is situated.

In order for the Homesteader to obtain title to his land he had to have lived on the land at least six months each year for three years. He had to cultivate land for each of the three years and he had to have some sort of dwelling on the land. Joint ownership with a second party would not meet these requirements.

In order to encourage the settlement of the prairies, the Government advertised these free Homestead Lands in Europe, United States and Eastern Canada. The opportunity to own a farm of their own appealed to a great many people. As a result a great influx of settlers came from Central Europe, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, Germany, as well as from Eastern Canada and the United States. These settlers were mostly from the working class. Some had money and some arrived with very little.



First sod shack on homestead - Jarrow. Stanley and Mary Ann Lisson.



Stanley Lisson with team in front of sod house.

LIFE ON THE HOMESTEAD

The first things to be done on the homestead was to provide a home, a shelter for whatever animals there were and a water supply. The Homesteader's house was built from whatever was available -- logs, sod, frame building, and even "dug-outs" in the side of a hill. Some were a combination of a "dug-out" and frame. Many spent the first summer in a tent.

These homes weren't modern. The water was carried in and the waste water was carried out. The bathroom facilities consisted of an outdoor privy and the wash tub served as the bathtub every Saturday night. Most of the homes were heated by the cookstove and an airtight heater. The fuel was wood. The houses weren't insulated so in the winter it would be cold in the morning. The water pails would be frozen over. Coal-oil lamps were used for lighting. A light would be left burning at a window all night. This was to guide a lost person. It was necessary to "bank" the house in the fall to keep the cellar from freezing and it kept the floor warmer too. This banking material was whatever was available - sod or manure chiefly. Many made their own furniture. While these homes were no mansions they were the homesteader's palace.

Many stables were built of logs. The roofs were made of poles and sod. The first year such a roof would be

covered with grass that grew in the sod covering.

Getting a suitable water supply was a real problem in the early days. Many wells were "hand dug" and would provide a minimal supply of water. These wells were dangerous also because they could cave in covering the workers or they could be overcome by gas. A lighted lantern was hung in these wells, if it continued to burn it was safe for the worker, if it went out it was not, because there was escaping gas from the ground. There were some deaths because of this gas. The sloughs in the Parkland area of Alberta provided water for the animals and sometimes for washing. In the winter, holes were cut in the ice so the animals could get the water.

The Homesteader had to live "off the land". The climate in the early 1900's wasn't what it is now. There were summer frosts so only the hardiest plants could be grown in the gardens. Corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, couldn't be grown. Squaw corn was grown in the 20's. Now most anything can be grown in our gardens.

Previous to 1910 homesteading was a lonely life, particularly for the women. They would spend months without seeing another woman or maybe going for groceries.

The men worked very hard bringing the land under cultivation. Many, many acres were ploughed with a walking plough and a team of oxen or horses or an ox and a horse. A single furrow was all that was made by a walking plough. The mosquitoes would be stirred up from the prairie grass and make life difficult for both man and beast.

The first task in the spring would be to plough a "fire-guard" around the buildings. This usually was ten to twelve feet wide strips of ploughing made with a five or six foot space between them. The grass would be burned between them. This was necessary because prairie fires were common and destructive.



OLD TIMER

He sits in his chair with a thoughtful air
And he listens to wisdom flow;
He lives in the present with those who are present
But he knows what they cannot know.

Together they drink the ice-cool draught
Of sterilized limpid dew,
But when he came first he slaked his thirst
'Neath scum from an alkalized slough.

He covered the prairie's weary miles
With only trail as a guide,
Where trains now run from sun to sun
And highways are many and wide.

He is marked by the year of toil and fears,
The gamble with frost and drought,
His face is lined and his hair is grey,
But the same brave eyes look out.

He sees the yield from the planted field,
Which makes him proud to know,
He toiled in the past with those of the past
Who struggled to make things grow.

—Author Unknown.



Grover, Margery and Lillian 1916.



SATURDAY BATH

Heat the water and bring out the tub
Time for a good old Saturday scrub,
You hate the soap in your eyes and nose,
But the bubbles are fun 'cause they tickle your toes,
And Mommy says that to her it appears,
You could grow potatoes in those grubby ears,
Then she hugs you hard when the bath's complete,
And says you're an angel, all fresh and sweet,
Heat the water and bring out the tub
Time for a good old Saturday scrub!

— Author Unknown



Neil McGillis was the first settler in the Irma district in 1905. His homestead was S.W. 20-45-8-W4th and had the oil rights. He was a carpenter and many of the Irma buildings were his work.

HOMESTEADING FOR ANY PERSON

Edith Gower

"Any person, male or female, who is the sole head of a family, or any male who has attained the age of eighteen years, shall on making application in the form A in the schedule to this Act, be entitled to obtain homestead entry for any quantity of land not exceeding one-quarter section, and being of the class of land open, under the provisions of this Act to Homestead entry".

So reads the item 27 under Homestead Rights in the Dominion Land Acts Amendment 1883. Are we aware that we women had this liberation before Alberta was born, in 1905? Notice the wording - it says male or female. It does qualify that by adding, "who is head of a family". There was no conception of the idea that a female of eighteen years would even want to homestead!

These same laws applied to "any person" claiming a patent for a homestead. He or she must pay the required ten dollars for filing a claim for a patent. In the 1883 Amendment to the Dominion Lands Act, Number 2 item had the subclause Number 6, "...any person claiming a patent for a homestead....shall be entitled thereto, upon proving that he has erected upon his homestead a habitable house and has bona-fide resided therein for not less than three months next prior to the date of his application for his patent....that within the first year after the date of his homestead entry he had broken and prepared for crop not less than ten acres of his homestead quarter section: that within the second year he had cropped the said ten acres and broken and prepared for crop not less than fifteen acres additional - making not less than twenty-five acres; and that within the third year after the date of his homestead entry, he had cropped the said twenty-five acres and broken and prepared for crop not less than fifteen acres additional - making in all not less than twenty-five acres of the said homestead cropped, and fifteen acres additional thereof broken and prepared for crop, within three years of the date of perfecting his homestead entry; and the residence described in this sub-clause shall be sufficiently fulfilled if the applicant has not been absent from his residence for more than six months of any one year.

These were the laws that still applied to homesteading in Alberta after it became a province in 1905. They were written from the point of view of opening up the country, with safeguards to ensure that the homesteader was serious in making a home and a producing farm. But these same laws also protected the rights of the homesteader. They were the laws that protected my mother when her husband died in the early part of 1910. Their homestead had a sod shack, "a habitable house", the ten acres were broken for the first year's requirement. They were in Strathcona for the winter where her husband was working to obtain enough money to keep them for the following six months, when they must live on their land. A homesteader's wife knew the law. In the spring, she returned to the sod shack with her two babies. She must establish residence, crop that ten acres and break fifteen acres more. This she did, with the help of other homesteaders. Then on into 1911, when these acres were cropped and another fifteen acres were broken and

prepared for crop. Those three years were the same for each homesteader, varying only in degree as to what they had to face, what they had to learn and what they had to accomplish.

The next step, too, was the same for each one, and who can say whether they each didn't feel that same pride that mother felt in being a citizen of this new Alberta when she received that paper that was the dream of every homesteader - Form 31a from the Department of the Interior. It read as follows: "I have to inform you that a patent for S.E. 1/4 of Section 18 in Township 47, Range 8, West of the 4th Meridian bearing date the 11th of August, 1911 has been issued in your name...."

This paper represented, for all the homesteaders, the reason for coming, the reason for bearing all the loneliness and the hardships. Here was land and a home for their children. Here was the opportunity that had never been theirs in the old country, whatever country that may have been.

It is right that we honor these first citizens of Alberta in 1980, our seventy-fifth birthday. But you are asking how I know all this? The woman who proved up on her homestead was Mrs. Nellie Jones, my mother.



Taken at Jack Jones in 1915 - building used as a granary and is still standing. Left to Right: Jack Jones, Jim Craig, Bill Williams.



Mr. and Mrs. Bishop in 1918.



Chase's log house on homestead.



John W. Bronson and sons, Verne and Elvin beside loaded boxcar in 1918.



Wash day at the Colin McLean Ranch - 1909.

Recollections

(by an unknown Pioneer)

Once the landmark of Alberta
And the home of pioneers,
I can see the old sod shanty
Looming through the mist of years.
As it nestled in the valley
Or on prairie's gentle slope,
Oft its friendly invitation
Filled the traveller with hope.

Few advantages it offered
But its simple homely air,
Made the stranger feel that surely
Hospitality was there.
Though its single room was crowded,
Yet the friendly open door
Told the night-o'-re-taken pilgrim,
There was always room for more.

Time has moved the old sod shanty
And no more its kindly light
Sends a friendly ray a-gleaming
Through the darkness of the night.
Gone are tender recollections
Of that home upon the plain,
For the little old sod shanty
Only stands in memory lane.



John Alexander Barss.



Sod henhouse and granary.

No. 71475

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

Dominion Lands--Sub-Agent's Receipt,

Amount, \$ 100 Sub-Agency Hill 19 1911
RECEIVED from Chas. D. Hill of Antick P.O.
the sum of One Dollars in payment of
homestead entry fee for \$6 Section 18 Township 45 Range 8 West 4 Meridian

NOTICE: This payment above acknowledged is received subject for its acceptance by the Agent of Dominion Lands at Edmonton who will refund it if it cannot be applied to the purpose for which it was made owing to the land not being vacant and available.

W. H. Munn
Sub-Agent.

COMING OF THE RAILWAY

The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway's first train went through Irma in May 1909. With the coming of the Railway the village started to develop.

Irma and district is comprised of townships forty-four, forty-five, forty-six, forty-seven, and most of forty-eight in Ranges five to nine inclusive. It is located midway between Hardisty to the south and Mannville to the north. The Battle River is south and east of Irma. Gratton Coulee is a mile or so south of Irma and the creek flows into Battle River near the railway bridge east and south of Irma. Buffalo Coulee is just about the northern boundary of the Irma district.

The rolling terrain, dotted with bluffs and sloughs and abundant prairie grass provided opportunities for ranching. The buffalo used to graze in this area. This is evident because deep paths were beaten into the ground leading to water holes. Numerous buffalo skulls were found. A few rubbing stones are still to be found. These were huge rocks left by the melting ice at the end of the Ice Age. When the buffalo were shedding in the spring they would rub against these rocks. Deep ruts were worn around these rocks.

The soil for the most part was a type of loam with plenty of humus in it. This made a good farming area. These facts enticed settlers to come to this area.

Those settlers who came to the area before 1909 came by C.P.R. to Hardisty or Canadian Northern Railway to Mannville. Previous to this time some came to Edmonton by C.P.R. and from there came by way of Battleford Trail, using Red River Carts or wagons, while some walked from Edmonton.



The Fabyan bridge completed 1908. It is 3000 feet long and 197 feet high at center.



Transcript of a letter from Mary Elliott written to Peter McNaughton dated Irma November 8, 1909. "Will came home a week ago tonight on the first train that the G.T.P. carried passengers from Edmonton. Starting tomorrow we are to have mail once a day".



Building the big steel bridge west of Fabyan.

SPECIAL G.T.P. EDITION OF THE ALBERTA HOMESTEAD - IRMA - OCTOBER 1909

submitted by Ethel Milburn

By the time this sees print you can travel into Irma by rail. Just now you drive and if you leave Wainwright behind a good team and it's no later than three in the afternoon, you are here by seven and your appetite is clamoring. Halfway hitherward you reach the Battle River. It flows peacefully enough at this time of year (August), but precaution bids you avoid the ford and you follow the road to the ferry and do your own piloting if the ferryman be elsewhere. In August this is easy, for the river is not high, and you welcome the adventure. Halfway up the riverbank you see the Battle River bridge in the distance and though the mile or more between you shrinks its proportions, you feel the grace of its lines and require no credulity in believing that here is the second largest bridge in the province.

The country between the river and Irma is good country, the farmers tell you so. The crops prove it. So also do some of the farm dwellings. One house in particular impresses you. Its keynote is prosperity and many a residence in the residential district of Edmonton cost less money to build, betrays exceedingly less taste, architecturally and bespeaks considerably less comfort within. The farmer himself is a keen-eyed, quiet spoken man from Ontario. You feel that he knows his business and that his choice of location in the Irma district was based on trained practical judgement of land and only that. There is a type of mind that says: "If such is good enough for John Jones, it's good enough for me." I am of that type myself, and were I a farmer seeking land the very presence in this district of our friend of the keen eyes and the substantial dwelling and his sturdy sons, would be telling argument for my serious consideration of this country about Irma.

This drive from the river takes you two or three more miles north of the railway, and shortly after leaving our friend above, you come upon, though to the north side of it, almost a valley, some two miles wide and several miles in length; and its beauty, covered here and there, as it is with small growth of poplars and an occasional patch of bushes, showing a varied green in its generous sweep, fills you with a love of the place and the glory of what it will be. Just now only an occasional strip of oats or wheat or barley holds the eye, but those who claim to know tell you that it boasts as fine a quality of soil, with the black loam top and clay beneath, as man can want. Most of the odd sections here are owned by the Union Trust Co., of Toronto, and \$11 to \$15 per acre as yet will but buy sturdy portions of it.

All the land to the north of this is of this character of soil. Occasionally you come upon lighter soil in this district, and this is well, for variety of land is what makes a country, so it be good land - and those who grow grain and pack well their land, tell you that even the light land gives bumper crops which usually ripen days and days before grain grown on the much sought heavy land. Most of this country near Irma is gently rolling, getting gradually level as you go north to the Grizzly Bear Coulee.

The south country is rolling for a mile or two from town till you come to the Grattan Coulee. The coulee itself, as does much of the whole country, is profile of hay - a great aid in the wintering of stock. Cross the coulee and you come upon Strawberry Plains, running ten miles southward, a stretch of flat prairie country, medium heavy as to soil with the usual black loam above, and clay beneath. The name, Strawberry Plains had a sweet sound. It betrays a characteristic of this whole country which the ignorant East knows not of. Small fruits grow here in great abundance. Strawberries, saskatoons, gooseberries, raspberries, all in their wild state, almost rival the cultivated fruits of Ontario. This

morning I saw wild raspberries, picked yesterday - bowls full of them - which were as satisfactory in size and more so in flavor than you find in your Eastern garden.

"Why don't some of these farmers get busy and grow strawberries and small fruits?" I asked eastward of here.

"What's the use?" was the reply; "What's the use when you can go into the country and pick all you want wild - and fine fruit too."

It needs no prophetic eye to see that some day Irma will be shipping out carloads of small fruit, either fresh or in tins or both.

Irma people made their boast of this south country for two reasons: the kind of settlers, and the way they settled it. To the south and southeast are Americans and Canadians; to the southwest, Germans and a few Scandinavians. Ask Canadians what kind of farmers Americans make. In either case the answer is "Good" or "More than good." Ask either about the Germans, and your answer is the same.

A goodly plenty of these were homesteaders. They now own or are about to own their land. They came into the country most of them, with some money. Their domiciles show this. They look comfortable, and none of them are of the typical mark of poverty, namely, of sod. Some of them cost \$1,000 to \$3,000. Moreover, the C.P.R. owns no odd sections here. The unearned increment is not for the railway; it is for the settlers themselves. Large areas boast of a house on every quarter-section, and this promises much of Irma.

The nationality, as in the south, so in the north - mostly Canadians and Americans.

The location of Irma is, in a sense, strategic if you count on the natural trend of trade. Due north, forty miles, is the C.N.R. The country between and twenty miles away is divided by the Grizzly Bear Coulee. These twenty miles look naturally to Irma for supplies. To the East is the Battle River flowing in a northeasterly direction, and a large section of the country north of the river, and between it and the coulee, comes naturally to Irma. Similarly to the northwest until you come into the area of Viking's influence, and Viking even by rail, is twenty-seven miles away.

The south country for ten miles or more is also tributary. Gratton Coulee is crossed but a mile or two distant and a bridge is the talk of the near future. The road thitherward and the approaches thereto are good and the people in most of Strawberry Plains come to Irma to market.

Mixed farming flourishes. Indeed, it is more a mixed farming than a grain area. Already despite the wild plenty, some of the older settlers have their strawberry patches and their raspberry bushes. Cattle and hogs and poultry are increasing on these farms, though as yet eggs enough to supply the whole district are lacking.

Some 6,000 acres are in crop this year. Most of it in wheat, oats, barley and flax, and as much more is being broken this year by a steam plowing outfit, introducing modern farming and in one particular instance, that of a Mr. Moore, of Hamilton, who recently purchased three sections, doing it on an enthusiastic scale. Soon the oats and wheat will follow. The elevation here gets credit for the earlier harvest, in some cases this being ten days to

two weeks in advance of other parts of the province.

Six miles to the southwest and three miles from the railway is a good quality of coal. Seven miles to the southeast and along the river is more coal of equally good quality; both of which facts spell cheapness in the matter of fuel. Wood also is here in plenty, good dry poplar, which the farmers bring in and trade for supplies. The water is good and near the surface. Many get it within twenty feet others go down forty to sixty feet. Alkali is conspicuous by its absence. Wild fowls abound especially geese, ducks and prairie chickens.

In the matter of age Irma itself is not yet even in the teething period. It has had no birthdays yet and only this spring saw its beginning really take shape. There are now one livery, one hotel that talks of building an addition soon, two general stores and another about to open, a drug and stationery store, one restaurant, one butcher shop and two implement dealers. Close to two dozen binders alone have been sold here this season and next year promises even better things. At present her pressing need is a well stocked lumberyard.

Taken altogether, Irma has much of promise in her future. It is situated in almost an ideal district, and her small band of citizens have every confidence as to what that future will bring.



Colin and Kate McLean going for a joyride - 1909.

June 23, 1950 - The C.N.R. has completed a line of very up-to-date sleeping cars, giving them the names of towns the railway passes through beginning with the letter I. One has been named Irma.



J.H. Elliott and family, new house on homestead - 1906.

DOMINION



LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.



No. 20000

Agency,

190

I Certify that I have received from William Charles William
of Newville, Alta.
 the sum of 50 Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for S.W.
 Quarter 30 Section 47 Township 8
 West of 4th Meridian, and that the said W. C. William
 is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such
 cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.
161 acres.

NOTE—All minerals existing on the lands herein described, are reserved to His Majesty.

A. M. J. Carrington
 Local Agent.

NOTE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.



Mr. J. Carrington in 1906 with binder hooked to the oxen.

\$ 20

RECEIPT FOR TAXES

Received from

W. Gray

of

Lima

the sum of

20 DOLLAR

being amount due Local Improvement District

23-154

for Taxes for the year

1912

on the following Lands:

A W 10 - 46 - 7 W 1. 1b

Dated at

this

day of

19 /

Secretary-Treasurer



Mr. Oscar Peterson

Andrews Parkham

Lindsay St.

Norway

RETURN IN 10 DAYS TO

IRMA, ALBERTA

The most natural resourced mixed farming district in the WEST. Rich soil. Plenty of wood and grass. Cheap coal. A district filled with ambitious people, who have one eye on the present and one on the future. If you are wide awake, come and make your home with us. 200 miles west of Saskatoon, 100 miles east of Edmonton on the main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

Every farmer helps his neighbor. Every neighbor helps another.

Why is IRMA the most prosperous district in Alberta?

Because the farmers are united under the most up-to-date Co-Operative Company in the west. The best advantage in

Canada and one that very few have

IRMA WANTS

IRMA wants 500 good farmers to develop 150,000 acres of the finest soil in the world. Sells from \$12.00 to \$25.00 per acre. Rents on crop payments Easy terms.

IRMA NEEDS

IRMA needs a harness maker, shoemaker, an experienced woodworker, a laundry, a printer, a bakery, a hos-dressmaker, a hospital, a cheese factory, creamery, etc. etc. etc.

Is IRMA growing? Consider these facts. In 1912 IRMA'S

increased shipments in the following products are 190,000 bushels of grain, 1,000 hogs, 300 head of cattle, 1,000 gallons of cream, \$1,500 worth of butter, eggs, and other products, has 15,000 bushels of potatoes stored in a warehouse on the railway siding

For Further information write IRMA BOARD OF TRADE

Wanted
Peer of all lands
TO WIN

March 22 1909 300
 April 1910
 April 15 1910
 April 15-1910 - Dec 15-1910
 Nov 1 1911 - Dec 31-1911
 Jan 1-1912 - July 15-1912

used plus Continental
on my limited 32-42-8-4
size 9 3 children
April 10, 1910 Continental limited
May 3, 1912

1. *Sydney Mills*
do solemnly swear that the answers to the foregoing questions are true and correct in every particular. That I claim a Patent for the Homestead under the provisions of *The Dominion Land Act*.
That I obtained an entry, and claim a Patent for the same for my own benefit, and not in the interest or for the benefit of any other person or persons whatsoever. NO HELP ME (don.

5000 ft before the 4000 ft. 5000 ft. 5000 ft.
 July 15th A. D. 1912 5000 ft.
 having first been read over and explained to the said applicant.
 A. W. M. Land Agent of the Dominion Lands, or
 Ministerial Inspector for the Dominion Lands.
 need Gram 1 K 1000 1000 1000 1000

I recommend the foregoing application for Patent, believing that the homestead requirements of *The Dominion Lands Act* have, in this case, been complied with.

Issued at Edmonton,
Aug. 28th A.D. 1912.)

Local Agent of Dominion Lands for Edmonton, District

I hereby certify that _____ has to-day produced evidence showing ownership of the _____ of section _____ Township _____ Range _____ Meridian, _____ to the present time; that all payments have been made to date, and that at least one-third of the total purchase price has been paid.

Accepted as sufficient,

 Acting Deputy.

The Corresponding Author for a paper is responsible to ensure that the name of the home address is given in full and correctly spelled.

Year 1911	5	20
Year 1912	35	25

OUR MUNICIPALITY

Previous to the formation of the Municipality of Battle River Number 423 on December 17, 1912, this district was an Improvement District with S.C. Miles as secretary-treasurer. The first council members for the new municipal district were James Lennon, A.A. Fischer, C.T. Hill, A. Golding and J. Thompson. Mr. R.J. Tate was secretary-treasurer with a salary of five hundred dollars per year and had his office in Irma. In 1932 Charles Wilbraham was appointed secretary-treasurer. Serving as the reeve between 1912 and 1942 were James Lennon, C.T. Hill, J.D. Smallwood, A.A. Fischer and A. Burton. Twenty-five council members served during this time.

From 1912 to 1941 families wishing to apply for relief were allowed ten dollars per month, those with no children were allowed six dollars. Many farmers worked on the construction of roads in the district, with payment being applied on their taxes. In 1913 gopher poison was distributed to farmers and in 1914 a bounty was offered for gopher tails, with the counting of tails made at the schools. In 1914 the cemetery was established and two weed inspectors J. Armstrong and J.H. Elliott were appointed. In 1920 grants were given towards many things, one being the building of a rest room in Irma. Enlisted men's land was exempt from taxation. Grasshoppers were poisoned in 1922. In 1932 the establishment of pounds for the internment of stray animals necessitated the largest round-up of wild and stray horses in the history of the district. Unclaimed horses were auctioned off. In the hungry 30's seed grain was furnished to farmers on loan.

On March 13, 1942 four municipal districts, including Battle River, amalgamated to make up the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 392. In 1945 the number was changed to No. 61. Charlie Arhcbald was first elected to council in 1941 before the amalgamation and represented Division 7 after that. He served as reeve from 1954 to and including 1967, serving continuously on council for thirty-five years. Following his death in 1977 Myron Meyer was elected to fill the vacancy. Jim Hinton is the councillor now. Alex Smallwood served as councillor for Division 6 for twenty-four years. Since 1980 Bruce Willerton has been the councillor.



Lunch and water break on the Sander's farm while building highway 14 in 1935.



Paul Loring hauling grain.



Edwin, Adelaide and Leslie Elliott.

FARM CHARMERS

A survey concerning farm life was conducted among small fry in metropolitan area. Here are the results.

- 72.8% were positive *acre* meant that a tooth needed attention.
- 45.8% explained *cabbage* was the fee charged for riding in a taxi.
- 61.3% were sure *seeder* referred to an evergreen tree.
- 80.4% declared *sheep* meant the opposite to expensive.
- 59.1% agreed *stallion* was an onion.
- 74.7% thought *hays* meant a light fog.
- 48.5% knew *veterinarian* referred to an ex-member of the military.
- 63.9% defined *sorgum* as a cause of pink toothbrush.
- 81.0% said *horse and wagon* referred to a friendly dog with a cold.
- 47.6% believed *dairy* was a written record of daily happenings.
- 62.5% indentified *yam* as a Swedish yelly.
- 58.2% supposed *gourd* described a slow bullfighter.
- 83.7% guessed *pollination* meant a country of parrots.
- 44.1% presumed *bug powder* concerned a cosmetic for insects.
- 99.9% stated *harrow* was an Indian weapon shot from a bow and *winnow* made it possible to look through a wall.

We wonder what rural children would say about city terms.

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT

J. Harrington Barrs
Zoldovara

Take notice that you have been assessed under the provisions of The Local Improvement Act for the under-mentioned lands in the above District, and that taxes are now due and payable to the undersigned as follows:

Part of Section	Sec.	Tp.	Rge	Mer.	Acres	Rate of assess- ment per acre	Amount of Taxes for cur- rent year	Arrears of Taxes	TOTAL	Years for which Arrears are due
NE	34	49	9	14	160	6 1/4	10.00			

Dated at SALTEUX this.....

PENALTY ON ARREARS

day of MARCH 1916 191

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

10.00

SALTEUX P.O., ALTA.

ARTHUR CURTIS

Secretary-Treasurer District 453

Payments are required to be made by accepted Bank Cheque, Bank Draft, Money Order, or Post Office Note, payable at par in VERMILION, ALTA......or in cash.

Postage Stamps cannot be accepted in any case.

Subsection 2 of Section 58 of The Local Improvement Act provides that on the first day of January following, as a penalty, an additional sum amounting to ten per cent. of such taxes shall be added thereto. On the first day of January in each year thereafter, as a penalty, an additional sum amounting to ten per cent. of all arrears of taxes shall be added thereto.

AN ANCIENT PRAYER

Give us, Lord, a bit of sun,
 A bit of work and a bit of fun;
 Give us all in the struggle and splutter
 Our daily bread and a bit of butter;
 Give us health, our keep to make
 And a bit to spare for poor folks' sake;
 Give us sense, for we're some of us duffers,
 And a heart to feel for all that suffers.

Give us, too, a bit of a song,
 And a tale and a book to help us along,
 And give us our share of sorrow's lesson,
 That we may prove how grief's a blessing;
 Give us, Lord, a chance to be
 Our goodly best, brave, wise and free,
 Our goodly best for ourself and others,
 Till all men learn to live as brothers.

Road building crew, man on left is Fred Hill.



Electoral Division of Mainwright		List of Voters	Polling Sub-division No 33	
No.	Name	Occupation	Residence	Post Office Address
1	Askin Michael D	Farmer	S.W. 24-45-9	Irma
2	" Vina	Wife	"	"
3	" Roy	Farmer	"	"
4	" Cicil	Student	"	"
5	Anderson Hilda	Housekeeper	N.E. 32-" "	"
6	Asquin Peter J	Laborer	Irma	"
7	" Theresa	Wife	"	"
8	Bibby William	Drayman	"	"
9	" Mary	Wife	"	"
10	" Catherine	Tele Operator	"	"
11	Bateman Sophia	Spinster	N.E. 16-" "	"
12	Christenson Carl	Farmer	N.W. 14H "	"
13	" Mabel	Wife	"	"
14	Congdon Solomon	Farmer	N.E. 22" "	"
15	" Nettie	Wife	"	"
16	Curfman Catherine	Widow	N.E. 28-" "	"
17	Drew Albert E	Brain Buyer	Irma	"
18	" Mary A	Wife	"	"
19	Derman Thomas J	Farmer Druggist	"	"
20	Eaton Blanche	Wife	N.E. 24-" "	"
21	" George H	Farmer	"	"
22	Elliot George	Clergyman	Irma	"
23	Elliot Dorothy	Wife	"	"
24	Elford Edward L	Mechanic	"	"
25	" Ruby	Wife	"	"
26	Edmonds Russell	Capenter	"	"
27	" Jewell	Wife	"	"
28	" Delmar	Laborer	"	"
29	" Burleigh	"	"	"
30	Flemming Thomas H	Merchant	"	"
31	" Mary	Wife	"	"
32	Flewelling Margaret	Widow	"	"
33	" Alice L	Clerk	"	"
34	Gulbrae Joe	Farmer	S.W. 16-45-9	"
35	" Lena	Wife	"	"
36	" John B	Farmer	N.W. 22-" "	"
37	Glasgow David	Farmer	N.W. 22-" "	"
38	" Sadie	Wife	"	"
39	Guiltner Lionel	Laborer	N.E. 28-" "	"
40	" Laura	Wife	"	"
41	Gunn William G	Farmer	S.W. 30-" "	"
42	" Norman	"	"	"
43	Graham Anna	Widow	Irma	"
44	" Mary	Teacher	"	"
45	Henderson Bruce	Farmer	S.E. 13-" "	"
46	Hagan Lars E.	"	N.E. 15" "	"
47	" Maend	"	"	"
48	Harbert Roland	"	N.E. 32" "	"
49	" Violet	Wife	"	"
50	Huffman Ed	Farmer	S.W. 36" "	"
51	Hostrip L	Merchant	Irma	"
52	" A	Wife	"	"
53	Hodley J A	Barber	"	"
54	Hewitt H	Mechanic	"	"
55	" B	Wife	"	"
56	Hatch L O	Butcher	"	"
57	" E. M.	Wife	"	"
58	Harper Wm. H	Bailiff	"	"
59	Hughes A	Laborer	"	"
60	Hardy P. J.	Merchant	"	"
61	" I	Wife	"	"
62	Hubbs Uel	Laborer	"	"
63	" I	Wife	"	"
64	Jardine A. D.	Bank Mgr.	"	"
65	" Ada	Wife	"	"
66	Jackson Guy	Grain Buyer	"	"
67	" Mina	Wife	"	"
68	Jones P. E.	Implement Dealer	"	"
69	" E	Wife	"	"
70	" P	Grain Buyer	"	"
71	Jones Elizabeth	Wife	Irma	Irma
72	Knowles T	Farmer	N.W. 36-45-9	"
73	" D	Wife	"	"
74	Knudson I. C.	Postmistress	Irma	"
75	Kellar F. A.	Bank Clerk	"	"
76	Long A	Farmer	S.W. 1-45-9	"
77	" B	Wife	"	"
78	Liden T. A	Merchant	Irma	"
79	Love J. R.	Farmer	N.W. 28-45-9	"
80	Lee E. W.	"	N.E. 32" "	"

The early 1920's

Electoral Division of Wainwright		List of voters	Polling Sub-division No. 33.	
No.	Name	Occupation	Residence	Post Office Address
81	Loss R	"	S.E. 33 " "	"
82	" L	Wife	"	"
83	Love H. W.	Farmer	Irma	"
84	" A. R.	Wife	"	"
85	Lattner C. W.	Merchant	"	"
86	" E	Wife	"	"
87	Mitchell G.W.	Farmer	S.E. 2-45-9	"
88	" D	Wife	"	"
89	Macbeth D. P.A.	Farmer	S.E. 25 " "	"
90	" J.W.	Wife	"	"
91	McIlburn J.W.	Farmer	N.E. 34 " "	"
92	" M	Wife	"	"
93	" M	Teacher	"	"
94	Manners G	Harness Maker	Irma	"
95	Maguire R.W	Grain Buyer	"	"
96	" A	Wife	"	"
97	Marshall	Stock Buyer	"	"
98	Mathison N.M.	Clerk	"	"
99	" S.	Wife	"	"
100	Mildon W. L	Carpenter	"	"
101	Masson W	Ins.Agent	"	"
102	McDonald J.A	Farmer	S.E. 6-45-9	"
103	" E	Wife	"	"
104	McKay J.C.	Farmer	N.E. 16 " "	"
105	" H	Wife	"	"
106	McDowell E.T	Merchant	Irma	"
107	" F	Wife	"	"
108	McFarland R	Merchant	"	"
109	" A	Wife	"	"
110	McGregor S.R.	Physician	"	"
111	McLeod M. K.	Blacksmith	"	"
112	Mc " C	Wife	"	"
113	McCreadie C	Widow	"	"
114	McGregor H	Spinster	"	"
115	McFarland C	Teacher	N.W. 14-45-9	"
116	Newberry J.J.	Farmer	N.E. 36 " "	"
117	" M	Wife	"	"
118	Ogilvie N	Butter Maker	Irma	"
119	" L	Wife	"	"
120	Peterson F	Gardener	N.E. 28-45-9	"
121	" A B	Wife	"	"
122	Pyle F. W	Farmer	S.E. 32 " "	"
123	" E	Wife	"	"
124	Payne F	Farm hand	N.W. 28 " "	"
125	" M	Merchant's wife	"	"
126	Rewitz H	Farmer	S.W. 6 " "	"
127	" G	Wife	"	"
128	Reid C	Farmer	N.E. 10 " "	"
129	" O	Wife	"	"
130	Steffenson O	Farmer	N.W. 17 " "	"
131	" A	Wife	"	"
132	Smallwood R. D	Farmer	S.W. 22 " "	"
133	" M	Wife	"	"
134	Sanders T	Farmer	N.W. 24 " "	"
135	" E	Wife	"	"
136	Sharkey E.E.	Farmer	S.W. 34 " "	"
137	Seton J.N.C.	"	S.E. 36 " "	"
138	" A	Wife	"	"
139	Shaw T. W.	Hotel Keeper	Irma	Irma
140	" I	Wife	"	"
141	Tucker A. F.	Merchant	"	"
142	" M.	Wife	"	"
143	Tate R. J.	Clerk	"	"
144	" D. L	Wife	"	"
145	Tripp G. A	Implement Dealer	"	"
146	" M	Wife	"	"
147	Wood J.C.	Farmer	S.E. 30-45-9	"
148	" H	Wife	"	"
149	Whalley A S.	Bank Clerk	Irma	"
150	Watkinson F. W	Cream tester	"	"
151	" G.	Wife	"	"
152	Whyte J. R.	Tele Operator	"	"
153	" V. L	Wife	"	"
154	Wisniuk A	Laborer	"	"
155	" W	Wife	"	"
156	Jackson E. E	Stock Buyer	"	"
157	Berreth J	Widow	S.W. 4-45-9	"
158	McInroy H	Merchant	Irma	"
159	" A	Wife	"	"
160	Stimson Burt	Laborer	S.W. 1-45-9	"

LIST OF VOTERS Electoral Division - Vermilion Polling Sub-division No. 27 POST OFFICE ADDRESS No. NAME OCCUPATION OR ADDITION RESIDENCE

1	Bayne W. A	Farmer	N.W. 6-45-8 #1	Irma
2	Betty. Arthur	Farmer	2	Wainwright
3	Burrell James	Farmer	N.W. 7.	Irma
4	Donohue James	Farmer	N.W. 4	Irma
5	Fenton James	Farmer	S.W. 20	Irma
6	Grady Edward	Farmer	N.W. 22	Irma
7	Gillis John W	Farmer	N.W. 30	Irma
8	Higginson Fred W	Farmer	S.E. 30	Irma
9	Higginson Geo H	Farmer	N.W. 32	Irma
10	Hill L. Theo	Farmer	S.E. 18	Irma
11	Larkin's James	Farmer	S.W. 22	Irma
12	Larson Louis	Farmer	N.E. 6	Irma
13	Miller Sidney	Farmer	S.E. 32	Irma
14	McGillis Neil J	Farmer	S.E. 16	Wainwright
15	McKnight W. S	Farmer	N.E. 7	Irma
16	McKnight James	Farmer	S.E. 7	Irma
17	O'Leary John	Farmer	S.E. 20	Irma
18	Chubbuck Mike	Farmer	S.W. 7	Irma
19	Sellers Harry H	Farmer	S.E. 22	Irma
20	Sheppard Rice J	Farmer	N.E. 20	Irma
21	Thompson John	...	2	Wainwright
22	Wastell J. W	Farmer	S.E. 24	Wainwright

TAXATION

from Irma Times 1932

Tax the people, tax with care,
To help the multi-millionaire.
Tax the farmer, tax his fowl,
Tax the dog and tax his howl,
Tax his hen, and tax her egg,
And let the bloomin' Mudsill beg.
Tax his pig and tax his squeal,
Tax his boots, run down at the heel,
Tax his horse, and tax his lands,
Tax the blisters on his hands.
Tax his plow, and tax his clothes
Tax the rag that wipes his nose
Tax his house, and tax his bed
Tax the bald spot on his head.
Tax the ox and tax the ass,
Tax his Henry, tax his gas,
Tax the road that he must pass,
And make his travel o'er the grass.
Tax his cow, and tax his calf,
Tax him if he dares to laugh,
He is but a common man, so

Tax the cuss, just all you can,
Tax the laborer but be discreet,
Tax him for walking on the street,
Tax his bread, and tax his meat,
Tax the shoes clear off his feet.
Tax the payroll, tax the sale,
Tax all his hard-earned kale,
Tax his pipe, and tax his smoke,
Teach him government is no joke.
Tax their coffins, tax their shrouds,
Tax their souls beyond the clouds.
Tax all business, tax the shop,
Tax their incomes, tax their stocks,
Tax the living, tax the dead,
Tax the unborn, before they are fed.
Tax the water, tax the air,
Tax the sunlight, if you dare,
Tax them all and tax them well,
Tax them to the gates of h---
But close your eyes so you can't see
The coupon clippers go tax free.

CHAPTER 2

IRMA AND COMMUNITY



Irma Co-operative store. Left to Right: Russel Love, H. W. Love, _____, Ida Steele, Wm. Milburn, Sr.



The X marks the Millburn Brothers Hardware Store built around 1908 or 1909. It burned down in the 1911 fire.

HISTORY OF IRMA

In 1908 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway drove survey stakes in the spot where Irma stands today. The railway was built from the east reaching Irma in 1909, after the Battle River bridge had been completed in 1908. The townsite was plagued with sloughs until the sewer system came in, allowing the sloughs to be drained and later filled in. The topography of Irma today is considerably changed from when the town was first established.

The name "Irma" was chosen by the railroad officials after a secretary of one of the railroad men. It follows alphabetically after Hawkins and before Jarrow. The first baby born in Irma was appropriately named Irma Burkholder. Mr. Burkholder was an elevator agent.

The railway was a boon to the early settlers. Besides providing transportation to distant areas, it provided work for many settlers who needed money to help improve their homesteads as well as to live. Many people were needed to haul freight, cook or supply fresh vegetables. In particular we have been told Mr. Alf Burton cooked for the railway crew. The Fenton children walked five miles to the bridge to supply fresh-grown garden vegetables to the camp kitchen. In the forthcoming histories it is mentioned many times of men hauling freight to the railway in order to augment their

income.

Milburn Brothers had a store near the Battle River but with the completion of the Battle River bridge moved their tarpaper covered shack to the Irma townsite. It was stocked with blankets, pillows, warm clothing etc. Mr. Albert Idle was the storekeeper. In the spring Mr. J.C. McLean hauled lumber from Hardisty to build their new store. However, Mr. Charles Swailes completed his store slightly ahead of the Milburn Brothers. All materials and supplies were hauled by oxen or horse drawn wagons over winding prairie trails from Hardisty, Mannville or Edmonton.

Mr. George Tripp built a livery barn in 1909 and kept driving teams and buggies for hire. A Methodist church, now the United, was built in 1909 on its present location.

The first home was at the back of the Swailes' store - a long kitchen-living room with bedrooms upstairs over the store. Many townspeople had homes on their nearby homesteads in order to prove up their claims. The first two residences built and lived in by J.W. Stuart and Slim Peterson were the original version of the homes for years occupied by Keith and Dorcas Coffin and the Black family.

Irma was incorporated as a village on May 30th, 1912. The first council minutes recorded are dated January 15th, 1913.



Don McCready, the first station agent at Irma's first station.



Left to Right: H.W. Love, Ina Steele, Mrs. H.W. Love, Hal Barss, Bill Milburn.



Very early picture of Irma, May, 1909. Hotel in background where Doc Matheson lived above, also Dave Ambler's poolroom. Store on far left, Milburns, Tripp's livery barn right.



Irma station. Hal Barss with team and fresno.



Early Irma lumberyard.



Irma, May, 1909.



George Tripp's livery barn situated where machine shop was.

IRMA VILLAGE COUNCIL

Irma was incorporated as a village on May 30, 1912. When the Government approved the request for incorporation it appointed W.B. "Slim" Peterson to conduct the election of councillors for the first Council. The first minutes recorded are dated January 15, 1913. W.B. Peterson was the Mayor and P.J. Hardy was the Secretary-Treasurer. The council meetings were held at P.J. Hardy's office. The formation of an assessment roll and levying taxes were issues of prime concern to the first councillors.

Throughout the years a major concern of the village council has been that of fire protection. Fire extinguishers were the only protection. These were provided by the village and were located in various business places. In 1923 Mr. Thos. Sanders built a village office and a small fire hall on the east side of Main Street, where the present office is now. A well was drilled just outside the building and a water reservoir was located under the sidewalk in front of the office to provide an adequate water supply in the case of a fire. Two portable chemical fire engines were purchased. These in reality were large fire extinguishers mounted on two wheels. They were designed to be pulled by two to four men but if a truck was available at the time of need the men rode in the back of the truck and hung onto the handle of the fire "cart". After the water distribution system was installed a pumper trailer unit was purchased. In 1965 Mr. Krozier built a new larger fire hall. In 1966 the Municipal District of Wainwright and the Village of Irma entered into an agreement authorizing the joint use, control, and management of the new municipality-owned fire apparatus and equipment. The fire truck has a water tank capacity of seven hundred and fifty gallons. It can draw water from hydrants or from open water supplies in rural areas. The local fire brigade serve on a voluntary basis, but operating expenses are shared with the rural municipality. The pumper trailer unit serves as "stand-by" equipment now.

In 1928 the village gave a franchise to the Calgary Power Company to supply electricity to Irma. Previous to this, what electricity Irma had was supplied by a privately owned Delco plant which the Moore Bros. had set up in conjunction with their garage in 1918. This plant was taken over by Mr. Elford shortly after his coming to Irma. As well as providing power for the customers it provided power for two street lights.

Because the parking of cars on village streets had become a problem by 1928 the following motion is a quote from the Council minutes dated May 7, 1928. It was moved that the following notice be published in the Irma Times. "All motor vehicles much be parked close up to and facing into the sidewalks, at an angle of 45 degrees, and that someone be appointed to regulate parking until such time as this regulation be familiar to the public."

On September 6, 1950 the ratepayers of the village passed a by-law providing for the village to be serviced with natural gas by the Northwestern Utilities Limited.

On March 7, 1955 the ratepayers of Irma approved by a narrow margin of one vote, capital expenditure to

provide for a water distribution and sewage disposal system for Irma. Work on this progressed very well during the summer of 1955 and was nearing completion when an explosion in November 1955 destroyed the power house and damaged the reservoir considerably. This delayed the work so the system didn't come into operation until the summer of 1956.

In November 1982 the village contracted to have the garbage picked up by a garbage truck once a week. The cost for this service would be collected with the water and sewer bills. This service is much appreciated.

A concern of the councils of Irma was the provision of facilities for skating and hockey. The first provision was a slough located in the low area southwest of the present hotel site. The next site chosen was north of the present hotel site. This rink had board sides. It was used until 1933 when it was necessary to find a better site. On September 18, 1933 council met to consider a petition from a majority of ratepayers asking the village to purchase land from the Imperial Lumber Company and from George Tripp on which to build a rink. This land adjoined the Lumberyard to the north. This rink was used until 1957. A new open-air rink was built on a fourth site west of the water plant. This rink was used until the winter of 1963-64 when it was replaced by the Arena, our first covered rink.

The record of village council meetings showed that many times the care of indigent residents became the responsibility of the village. In 1937 the council decided to hire a night watchman to be on guard for burglars and watch for fires.

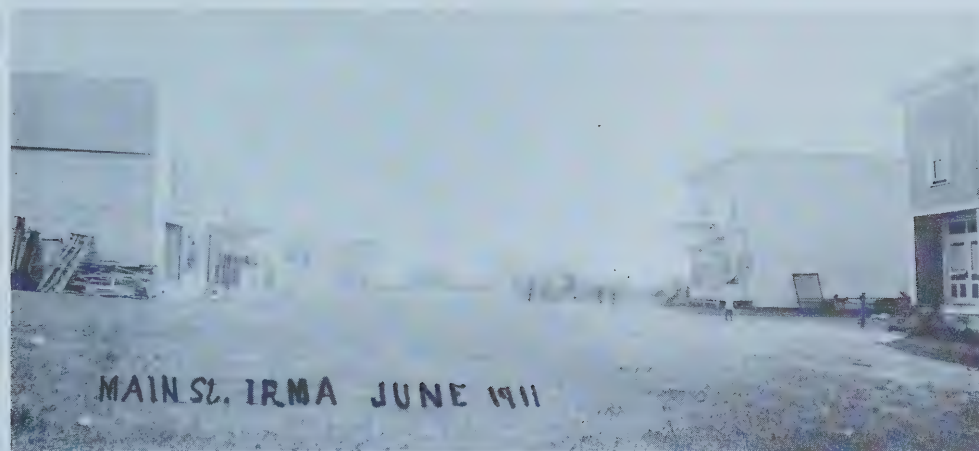
The Irma Recreation Area, comprising the Village of Irma and Divisions Six and Seven of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61, was organized and formed in 1969 for the purpose of co-ordinating recreational facilities and activities within the area. The Irma Village Council is the official signing authority for the Recreation Area.

In 1979 our village, in conjunction with "Main Street" Alberta, Devonian Group of Charitable Foundations erected a camp site for campers and trailers.

Throughout the years a major concern of the Village Council has been to try to keep Irma a clean and tidy village.



Cows grazing on flat west of Maguire's, taken from near the highway looking north. Dr. MacGregor and P.J. Hardy's houses shown.



Main Street - Irma, June, 1911.

Irma in 1921. East side.

Main Street

June 9, 1922

Mr. Geo. Tripp is sporting a new car.

Mr. Ray Moore was a visitor to Edmonton this week.

Mr. R. W. Maguire left last Wednesday for Spruce Grove where he will have charge of the U. G. G. Co. elevator.

Mr. F. Peterson returned Thursday night after spending a few days in Edmonton.

Mr. Steve Jones of Viking was in Irma Thursday with some oil men who motored through from Viking.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bareth on Thursday, June 1st, a son.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sonof, at Mrs. Curfman's Hospital, on June 3rd a son.

Mr. J. R. Love, M.L.A. has been attending the Farm Boys convention at the University of Alberta this week.

Rev. G. & Mrs. Elliott returned to Irma Wednesday evening after attending the methodist conference at Edmonton.

Mrs. J. C. McKay and her son Donald are expected home Saturday night.

The Irma baseball team journeyed to Wainwright last Friday night for a game with the Greenshields nine, we believe the score was 8-5 in favor of Greenshields..

Mr. Chas. Latimer has installed a new acetylene torch for repairing radiators and scored cylinders. This will be of great importance to owners of leaky radiators..

Mr. A. Turnbull returned to Irma from Edmonton Wednesday evening.

The W. M. S. will meet with Mrs. E. W. Carter on Thursday, June 15th.

All Ladies are invited to these meetings.



Irma from the air in 1921.

According to a report from Hardisty in Thursday's Journal, two miles in the Battle river bottom in the Lewisville district has become a breeding place for grasshoppers. The municipalities of Lewisville, Silver Lane, and Full View have united to fight the plague. Over a hundred loads of straw are reported to have been burned on the breeding grounds while waiting for poison from the government.

*Thank God for sleep!
And, when you cannot sleep,
Still thank Him that you live
To lie awake.*

FIRES IRMA AND DISTRICT

Fires were dreaded by the early settlers. Prairie fires fanned by strong winds and fed by lush, prairie wool were a constant threat to early pioneers. Homesteads were surrounded by fire guards (furrows ploughed in the prairie soil) to keep fires from settlers' homes. Often these were inadequate and settlers lost all their possessions.

Fires in the village were no less feared. The first major fire in Irma was in November, 1911. It started in the upstairs hallway of Milburn's store. Mr. Idle tells, "It was noon with no one on the street, and before a bucket brigade could be organized, it quickly spread, taking Swailes' store, a pool room and the three story Henderson Hotel." This consisted of all the buildings on the east side of Main Street between 50th Avenue and what is now known as Highway 14.

The second major fire was April, 1931. It started in the Shaw Hotel operated by Mr. and Mrs. Hager situated next to the highway on the west side of Main Street. A long, piercing train whistle woke the sleeping town. A high wind carried the fire to all the buildings, cafe, drug store, general store, pool room, post office and residence of Mrs. Ina Knudson, Co-op store and telephone office.

Stories are told of Mrs. Hewitt staying at the telephone switchboard until the very last minute. The work of volunteer fire fighters with only the help of a small chemical fire engine and women who kept the fire fighters supplied with coffee through the night, saved the Bank of Montreal, residences and other stores in the path of the fire.



Irma fire, 1911.

Irma, Alberta - 1910.



Since then fire has claimed Ben Sather's garage, Gage Pendleton's garage both on the corner of 49th Street and highway 14; the Edmunds Hotel building that was owned and used by Simmons and Son for a workshop and a hall located where Median Automotives is today. Mr. W. Symington lost a garage on this site prior to Median Automotives. The livery barn owned by M.G.A. Tripp burned in 1931. Brokop Theatre was a fire victim in 1963 and Andy's garage on the corner of 53rd Street and highway 14 in 1969. Few houses have been lost by fire in Irma. With the purchase of a modern fire engine the village as well as the surrounding country is much safer. Our volunteer fire brigades over the years must be commended for their efforts.

Over the years a major concern of the village has been fire protection. In early times fire extinguishers were provided by the village and located in various business places. However, more adequate fire protection was necessary and major expenditures of the 1923 council were (i) drilling a well, putting in a pump and constructing a reservoir, (ii) erecting a village office and fire hall, and (iii) purchasing two portable fire engines.

The fire hall and village office were built by T. Sanders in 1923. The first fire brigade was formed in 1932. The water reservoir was located under the sidewalk in front of the village office. It was the duty of the secretary-treasurer to keep the pump primed and to provide a drinking cup for public use.

The fire engines were nothing more than large fire extinguishers mounted on two wheels. They were designed to be pulled by two to four men. Sometimes it was pulled behind a truck.

In 1965 G. Krozier built a new fire hall and in 1966 the M.D. of Wainwright and the Village of Irma agreed to jointly use, control and manage the municipally owned fire equipment. Albert Bacon was the first fire chief.

With the help of modern fire fighting equipment and hydrants, very few buildings are completely lost to fires now. However, in 1982 the Bob Stone house in Irma was burned to the ground. Clair Prior is the present Irma Fire Chief and has held that position for many years.

IRMA LOOKS BACK

by Harold Dootson

*In a land of coyotes and prairie wool
Fate made the bed of my birth
By a ribbon of steel in the Western land
I've heard the tears and the mirth
Of the stolid bands of settlers,
Of many creeds and tongues
Seeking my earthly Treasure
In a land so free and young.*

*With plow and groaning oxen team
They turned my fertile ground,
Ukrainians, Scots, Norwegian
By purpose, brothers bound,
By peaceful, grazing white face herds
By rippling fields of grain,
They thanked the Great Provider
For his greatest blessing - rain.*

*In the old pool hall every Saturday night
You may hear of me in my youth
From the men who saw my beginning
Who wrestled nail and tooth
To wrest from me the Treasure,
Which lies beneath my sod
With nothing but sweat and a four horse team
And faith in their mighty God.*

*I'm just a little prairie town
And Irma is my name
And when my children speak of me
I pray it's not with shame,
For even though they leave me
And far abroad they roam
There's a place back in Alberta
It's me and I'm Home Sweet Home.*



Irma Fire, April 13, 1931.

Business buildings in Irma.



1913 - Irma town.

Main Street - Irma, July 12th, 1918.



SMALL TOWNS

How does a person know when they are in a small town? If you have ever lived in a small town, or if you are living in a small town, you may enjoy the following gems.

You are in a small town when:

- you don't use your turning signal because everyone knows where you are driving.
- you can't walk for exercise, because every time a car passes, the driver stops and offers you a ride.
- you dial the wrong number and talk for 10 minutes anyway.
- you drive into a ditch five miles out of town and word gets back before you do.
- someone asks how you feel and then listens to what you say.



Irma Main Street looking north before the fire: Post Office, Bank, Club Cafe, Stone's Bakery, and the first school in background.



Irma as it is growing in size and business.

NOT ROOM FOR BOTH

by R. Congdon, Irma Times 1937

*There's not room for the weed in your garden,
And the blossoming flowers too;
You can't have the noxious nettle,
And the violet's lovely blue.
For the weed will choke the blossom
And all the sun and the rain
Will never restore its beauty,
Or bring back the bloom again.*

*You can't have the smile of sunshine
And a dark frown on your face,
If you have a look forbidding,
You will lose the smile's bright grace,
And it's better to have the sunshine,
And the welcome in the eye,
Than the frown that is black and chilling,
Like the clouds up in the sky.*

*There's not room for the light and the gladness,
And the sweetness in our life,
As well as the dark and coldness,
And a heart that is set on strife.
And 'tis best to be sweet and gentle,
To be pure and true and kind,
And to keep as a loving treasure,
A sweet and loving mind.*

It is not enough for a gardener to love flowers; he must hate weeds.

BANKS

The Union Bank operated in Irma from 1910 to 1912. A branch of the Merchants Bank of Canada was opened in 1916 under the management of W.H. Madden. Mr. Madden died in the 1918 flu and was temporarily succeeded by A.T. Richardson. Mr. Masson assumed the manager's post that same year and served until 1922 when the Merchants Bank was taken over by the Bank of Montreal. The two-storey building served as a bank until 1983 when it was replaced by a modern one-storey structure. Over the years the managers have been A.D. Jardine, J.O.A. Letourneau, R.M. Campbell, H.E. Jones, R.L. Penfield, Louis Anderson, Alex Barteski, Mel Fowell, Gary Reid, Joe Nutt, Ken Wiese, Joe Myers, Dean Eger, Joe Myers, Gwen Seip, Bob Fournier and Gail Soucy. Karen Larson and Debbie Nissen complete the present staff.

A sub-branch of the Wainwright Treasury Branch opened in Mrs. McDowell's building in Irma in May of 1942 with a member of the staff coming from Wainwright on Thursday each week. Mr. A.C. Charter was the Irma representative. In March of 1956 the Branch was opened daily with Mr. William Masson as the first agent, and it operated from his place of business. After his retirement Fred and Lois Jack operated it from their hardware store. Since the passing of Fred Jack, Lois operated the Treasury Branch alone until her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, took over.

BANK ROBBERY

by Betty Holt

As I look back to about February 7th, 1959, I still feel my legs and feet walking me out the front door of the bank, down the stairs and I think running to Fred Jack Hardware. I was wondering all the time if someone was outside spying! When I got to the hardware I told Fred the bank was being "held up" and he just looked at me. So I told him again and asked if he'd do something. Glen Hockett and Irving Bell were in the hardware at the time so they got some guns and shells from the case and headed out. Fred phoned Wainwright R.C.M.P.

It was about six o'clock - closing time, Bob Harris and Louis Anderson were locking the vault. I had my coat and boots on already, waiting at the front door for Clifton to drive up. He was taking me home for the weekend. Mr. Anderson had been expecting a client so when there was a knock on the side door he went to open it, only to be faced with two men saying it was a "Hold Up". At hearing this I unlocked the front door and left. The robbers noticed me leaving and yelled at me, but I kept going as I was already out when they called and my legs just went!

They quickly forced Bob and Mr. Anderson to lie face down. The money was already locked in the safe but the vault was still open. The men left in a hurry through the side door and headed to their car which was parked out front.

The Hubman boys (Gary and Bob) had been up town and noticed the men coming from the bank. Glen

Hockett came from the Hardware saying "the bank was robbed". The Hubman boys got the license number of the car as they were standing in front of it. These men were later taken into custody. They were from Fort Saskatchewan and both had good jobs.



Irma on being incorporated as a Village 1912.

WANTED
Farmers' boys and girls between the ages of ten and nineteen to join The Merchants Bank of Canada Calf Club
Buy a calf to raise this season. The Bank will lend you the money on your own note at 6 per cent interest to purchase your calf. Enter your calf in the Agricultural Fair.
Special prizes will be given for competition open to the members.
Write for an Application for Membership form or fill it and obtain one. Entries will close on April 15th 1920.
For full particulars apply to
W. MASSON, Manager,
The Merchants Bank of Canada
IRMA Branch,
1920



Bill Masson

If the average man saves for the next twenty years at the same rate he has been saving for the past six years he'll be able to retire at the age of sixty - owing \$100,000.



Bank of Montreal in 1982 and 1984.



Irma Flood early 1920's.

BLACKSMITH AND MACHINE SHOPS

The first blacksmith shop was situated on the west part of the present Median Automotive property. Sam Cameron was the first blacksmith we have knowledge of and he was followed by Mr. Lyle. In 1915 A.E. Cox was the owner, but sold to Malcolm McLeod who operated it in the twenties. Mr. Vic Hutchinson purchased this business in 1931. All work was done manually and a plow share was sharpened for fifteen cents while shoeing a horse cost fifty cents.

Mr. C. Lattner started a machine shop where the Irma Hotel now stands. After his boys were old enough they joined their father. They left Irma in the 1940's.

L. Pongo built a machine shop across from where Median Automotives is located, in the twenties. He sold to Messrs. Evoy and Rodewoldt who operated it for awhile before selling to Jerry Hurst in 1948. Mr. Hurst manufactured and patented several machines.

Bill Belton who had started a welding shop on Main Street purchased the business and made wrought iron railings and farrowing crates besides doing custom welding.

Bill sold to Chic Shaw who ran a good business until the late seventies.

Robert Larson operates a welding business for industrial welding. In January of 1984 Chic had the building destroyed.



Irma Blacksmith Shop - Ken (Mac) McLeod, front left, did his last day of work when he turned seventy.



The McLeods - had a blacksmith shop in Irma for years.

The old-time blacksmith had it all over today's car serviceman. When you used to take your horse to a blacksmith to be shod, he didn't come up with a dozen other things that had to be fixed!

S. P. CAMERON

General Blacksmith

Wood Worker

Horse Shoeing

▲ Specialty

TIMES 1917

S. P. CAMERON

IRMA. - - - ALTA.

E. C. COX

GENERAL BLACKSMITH

Wagon Work

Plow Work

Horse Shoeing

All Work Guaranteed

1917

E. C. COX

IRMA. - - - ALTA.

QUICK SERVICE

- IN -

Auto Repairing

Oxyacetylene Welding

Pump Repairing

Plumbing & Steamfitting

Sheet Metal Works

Gasoline Engine

Repairing

Satisfaction Guaranteed

A FULL STOCK OF

Pumps, Pipe Fittings, Galvan-

ized Iron and Eave Troughs

on hand 1917

C. W. LATTNER

Machinist - - - Irma

IRMA

Blacksmith

— and —

MECHANIC SHOP

I do all kinds of

REPAIRING

on Farm Machinery

Expert Horseshoer

and Gunsmith

Rear of old Ford garage

West side of 2nd Ave.

1928

L. PONGO, Prop.

Irma, Alberta

Irma Machine Works Building.

June 27, 1958 - Mrs. Hurst was mildly surprised to see a hen and newly hatched chickens busily scratching for food beside the Hurst Machine Shop. She supposed it had wandered from a nearby yard but as the day passed into night the hen and her brood stayed by the shop. It was discovered that a combine brought from the Galloway farm (formerly owned by Jim Jackson) about a week before was the only place the hen and chicks called home. Some unhatched eggs in the interior of the machine showed that the hen had been nesting there and when the machine was moved over the hard, bumpy roads had stuck to her job and since coming to town had rustled food as best she could.

ISN'T IT FUNNY

When the other fellow takes a long time to do something, he's *slow*. But when I take a long time to do something, I'm *thorough*.

When the other fellow goes ahead and does something without being told, he's *overstepping his bounds*. But when I go ahead and do something without being told, that's *initiative*.

When the other fellow states his side of the question strongly, he's *bullheaded*. But when I state my side of a question, I'm being *firm*.

When the other fellow makes a mistake, he sure *had it coming to him*. But when I make a mistake, *man! That's bad luck*.

When the other fellow overlooks a few rules of etiquette, he's *rude*. But, when I skip a few rules, I'm being *original*.

Funny, isn't it - that it's hard to correct faults? Maybe it's because we don't even recognize them *except in others*.

It's so easy to tell a married couple these days. The husband is the one who enters the car from the left or street side. The wife is the one who climbs over the snow bank on the right side.

Childhood: That wonderful time when all you have to do to lose weight is take a bath.

V. HUTCHINSON,

Successor to M. K. McLeod

Blacksmith & Woodworker

Irma, Alberta

We solicit your patronage. Mr. Farmer do not neglect getting your Machinery put in shape before the Spring rush. We can do the work Better and Cheaper while we are not busy. Bring in your Harrow and Discs to be sharpened. If you have a Shoe Drill we can lay or sharpen them to give Satisfaction.

Experts on Plow and Wagon Work, Saw Filing, and Saws gummed right. Give us a trial.

BOLTS FOR SALE

Agent for MASSEY HARRIS MACHINERY

IRMA Times M.P. 31 - 1931

IRMA CAFES

One of Irma's first cafes was in a building that John Watson had previously operated as a feed mill and was run by Granny and Grandpa Preston. Granny served wonderful meals and her service was superb. Grandpa Preston rang a big cowbell brought from Switzerland by Emil Wirth to let all Irma know when it was mealtime. As the restaurant was on the east side of town near Sam Cameron's blacksmith shop and across the street from George Tripp's livery stable it was well patronized.

Messrs. Bannister and Fryette operated a cafe in 1910 and had opposition by one run by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Riley before 1917 in the Bob Stone building. Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Sharkey operated this cafe from 1917 to 1919. Mrs. Wong Foo took over from Bannister and Fryette. She was a victim of the 1918 flu and Mr. Kimball opened an ice cream parlor north of Shaw's Hotel. The building was built by Ken Stewart and was later turned into a cafe. Around 1920 Mr. and Mrs. Howard McIlroy operated it followed by Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Mel Hubbs, Roy Goodrich, Mrs. Fee, W.H. Fread, Otto Bethge (1922), Mrs. Pryce Jones (1924 or 1925) and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown (1925-1927). In November 1927 Jim Pond Sr. and his son Jim operated this business until it burned down in 1931. In 1945 Jim Pond bought the Bob Stone building and operated a cafe there until it was torn down in 1956 in order to construct the present Club Cafe which was opened in 1957. In 1958 the old building was demolished.

In 1912 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Shaw had a cafe on the block south of the Club Cafe in a building owned by Harry Long Sr. In 1921 Mr. Wong Tong was manager and in 1923-1926 Mr. Wong Hee took it over. The Ponds operated this cafe and remained there until the new Club Cafe was built.

Irma Ice Cream Parlor

ICE CREAM SUPPLIED FOR PICNICS & PARTIES

ICE COLD SOFT DRINKS

LIGHT LUNCHEES AND FRUITS IN SEASON

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO AUTOMOBILE PARTIES

E. Kimball, Irma *Aug 1918*

Doctor to patient, "Your new diet will be easy to remember. If it tastes good, spit it out."

What should not be heard by little ears should not be said by big mouths.

Irma Ice Cream Parlor

FULL LINE OF
ICE CREAM, CONFECTIONERY
FRESH FRUITS AND
SOFT DRINKS

LUNCHEES AND MEALS

Served at All Times

Pryce Jones, Prop.

AGENT FOR COCKSHUTT PLOW CO.

Irma

Alberta

IRMA TIMES 1925

Not all cafes were on Main Street. Jerry and Maudie Hurst bought the old machine shop from John Ostad in 1945 and made it into the Irma Coffee Shop. In 1946 they sold to Mrs. Murphy (Ethel McFarland's mother) who operated it until it burned down in 1956.

Gage Pendleton had a garage and coffee shop on the southeast corner of town. This changed hands often and saw many operators - Jean Dube, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Elliott, Eva Pendleton and Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Olive McArthur and the last manager was Marney Hill.

Bud and Kitty McNeil purchased the former dress shop and renovated it into the Irma Restaurant in the late seventies. Later they purchased and demolished the old telephone office in order to enlarge the restaurant. Ill health forced Bud and Kitty to sell out. For a time a Harris family operated it. It is now efficiently run by Ian Paget and Sharon Bartzis, and called the Kopper Kettle Restaurant.



Club Cafe and Women's Institute sign board, 1982.

IRMA CREAMERY

The Irma Creamery went into operation in 1920 under the management of Mr. Madsen. It was operated for ten years. The building was torn down by J.C. McLean and a new home appeared on the site. Today Mrs. O. Darling occupies this dwelling.

Let us have Your Cream

A manufacturing establishment calls for the outlay of many thousands of dollars in machinery and equipment. Funds must always be available to pay wages (which are in turn distributed throughout the district concerned) and volume of business must be sufficient to keep plant in profitable operation. Your local creamery is a manufacturing establishment and depends upon local support for successful operation.

CORRECT WEIGHTS AND TESTS

Courteous Attention — Prompt Service — Let us Make 1928 a Banner Year for the Irma Creamery.

Pat Burns & Co.

R. G. Forrest, Manager, Irma
IRMA TIMES JUNE 8-1928

A father was admonishing his complaining and failing son: "Son, all you need is encouragement and a swift kick in the seat of your can'ts."

DAIRY BUSINESS

In early times each family had a cow to supply milk for its use.

In 1923 W.E. Inkin had a small dairy and sold to people who preferred to buy their milk than to bother with a cow. By the late 1920's Arthur Charter milked cows and supplied milk to some Irma residents. Vic Hutchinson also had cows from which he sold milk.

Frank Wyand came to the Irma district in 1938 and settled two miles east of Irma. He started in the dairy business which he carried on until 1963 when ill health forced him to stop delivering milk. For some time Frank delivered milk to the locker plant and people had to come to pick up their supply. After that the Wainwright Dairy bought Wyand's milk and kept Irma supplied.

In time that too was phased out and today the Irma stores are supplied by Palm Dairies or Northern Alberta Dairy Pool. Many dairy products such as ice cream, yogurt and cottage cheese are supplied as well.

Around Irma today there are three dairies that ship bulk milk - Wallace Ford, Jack Mackay and family and the Holt Hutterite colony. Each have a dairy business in connection with their farm operations.

DRAYING

Percy Jones visited Irma in 1917 and upon returning to Viking found his crop was completely haled out. He



Frank Wyand the milkman.



Homer Wyand beside the milk wagon.

came to Irma and started a dray business and the mules he used were a familiar sight in the village. In 1922 Mr. W. Bibby bought Percy out and with his son Bill operated the dray business until he sold out to Sid and Ernie Simmons in 1924 Simmons operated the dray until they sold out in 1943 and moved to Kinsella.

Mr. L.L. Guiltner also did draying in Irma for twenty years. Ed Sharley did a thriving business for some time.

Before the highway was improved all goods had to come in by train. The mail came on the eleven and five o'clock day liners and had to be transported to the Post Office. Coal came in by train and was hauled to the homes by dray. Grocery hauling to the stores was a big business.

After the advent of big trucks the groceries were hauled directly from Edmonton or Vegreville by that means. Simmons and Son were the first truckers to haul groceries. They sold out to Morris Stilmann who operated for a couple of years. Byers started up a transport to haul along highway fourteen. Other truckers who operated the business were Leo Caouette, Leo Shaw, Glen Hockett, Jack Kennedy and today Wainwright Freight Lines keep some of the stores supplied. Many companies such as Westons and Northern Alberta Dairy Pool deliver their own products.

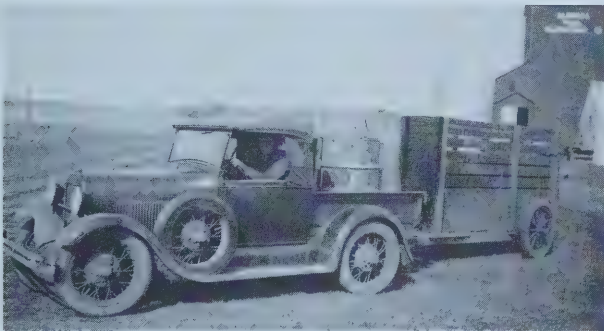
Thus draying as we knew it in Irma in the early years has been phased out.



George Tripp and Dray in Irma, 1911.



Percy Jones mule team draying outfit used in Irma in 1920 to haul freight from the railway station to places of business.



P.E. Jones Delivery Service - Jack Levitt driver.



First semi-trailer load of grain six hundred and forty-seven bushels of oats hauled to the U.G.G. in Irma, truck owned by Ernie Simmons.



Ed Sharkey dray-man in Irma with team King and Prince.



Lucille and Lionel Guiltner on the dray.

DRESS SHOP

Mrs. Alvin Johnson built a dress shop on the west side of Main Street in 1946 and carried on a good business for one year. Mrs. Clumstad bought it in 1947 and served the public for three years. They made it into living quarters. Later Gary and Eunice Jones and then Jackie Whelan lived there. Today it is part of the Irma Restaurant building.



Alice and Aubrey Fischer with baby George, 1909.



Mr. and Mrs. David McIntosh, 1909.

DRUG STORES

The first Irma drug store was owned and operated by Bruce Armstrong, in a store built in 1909 on the west side of Main Street. Howard Purvis also operated one. Clarence Bassett had his drug store in the north part of the McFarland building and shared the space with Doctor Stirling McGregor, who had his office and rooms in the back. Thomas Derman bought the business in the fall of 1921 and in February 1922 sold a pound of Neilson's chocolates for forty cents, a reasonable Valentine gift. In June of 1925 he moved his business across the street into a building formerly occupied by Hostrop's Store which was owned by Harry Long Sr. Walter Frickelton bought the drug store shortly after this and when the building was destroyed by fire in 1931 he operated his business from the north part of the McFarland building until his new store was built in 1940. Walter sold the business to Mrs. Lang in 1954 and since that time no prescription service was available. In 1959 Martin and Georgina Enger bought the business and operated it as Irma Medical Supplies until 1973. They sold the business to David Ho, who maintained the usual good service until August of 1984 when the business was gutted by fire while the Ho family were vacationing in Singapore. The building was demolished in November 1984 - thus ending an era of drug stores in Irma.

*We sterilize his bottles, and boil his little mug.
Wash and rinse his clothing, use a detergent on the rug.
Yes, we scrub and scour, boil, soak and souse.
Seems like we are forever cleaning our house.
But perish the thought, it would be too dumb,
To think for a minute of - sterilizing his thumb!*



Charles and Gertrude Peterson.

We have just received a
big shipment of **Kodak**
and **Camera Films**. Send
us your mail orders for
prompt attention

Films Developed - - - 15c
Prints - - - - - 5c

24 HOUR SERVICE

¹⁹¹⁹
Bassett's Drug Store

Irma, Alta.

School Supply Headquarters

A full range of School Supplies
and Text Books on hand. It will
pay you to see my range and prices
before buying. Bring in your sec-
ond hand text books that you wish
to dispose of.



Pen-and-Ink and Pencil Scribblers **10 for 25c**
Priced upwards from

PENCILS—Regular 5c. Special **7 for 25c**

INK—Special for School Opening. **15c**
15c Bottle Quink with Dictionary. Both for

W. N. FRICKELTON

Phone No. 7.

Irma, Alberta

*Some things just seem to go together ... like gravy and
tablecloths, white slacks and black dog hairs, slash
pockets and door knobs.*



Martin and Georgina Enger and their store - 1959-1973.

A Net for the Hair

A most desirable quality
Hair Net in single mesh,
cap style, in natural hair
and all colors. Qualities
that ladies have not seen
for a long time. A pref-
erable buy in quantities
—every lady should buy
a dozen at least.

15c Each

\$1.00 per Dozen



WE SELL AND
RECOMMEND
**Wampole's
Extract of
Cod Liver**

The Best Tonic for
Coughs, Colds,
Influenza and Grippe

IT IS better than ordinary cough
medicines, for it reaches the seat
of the trouble, relieves the cough
and supplies continual treatment to
build up the system to withstand
future attacks. A splendid blood
and body-building tonic for both
young and old who take it regularly.

Price - \$1.00

Saturday Sale Tooth Pastes

PEPSODENT 40c
DENTACLOX 40c
COLGATES 30c
FORHANS 55c
KLENZO 50c
NA DRU CO 25c

SATURDAY NOV. 18th

A selected list of the pop-
ular tooth pastes offered for
special selling on Saturday
only — everyone a bargain
as price quoted will con-
vince you. Lay in your stock.

Derman's Drug Store

"The Store of Satisfaction"

Get That Fly!

FLY COP WILL DO IT

8 Oz. Bottle 50c
16 Oz. Bottle 75c
32 Oz. Bottle **\$1.25**

Bring Your Own Bottles and Get —

8 Oz. for 35c
16 Oz. for 55c
32 Oz. for **\$1.00**

W. N. Frickelton

Irma Drug Store, ^{July 1930} - - - - - Irma,

THE OLD DAYS

When I think how my grandmother washed the clothes
With washtub and scrub-board and aching back,
It sure makes me wonder if days like those
Were the good old days, and are wanted back.
She used sad irons on a coal stove kept hot,
And boiled out her lard in an old iron pot.
She baked her own bread and churned her own butter
And used a straw broom to sweep up the clutter.
She scrubbed the floor with a scrub brush and pail
And she carried the water all in from the well.
She hoed the garden and fed the chicks
And then went hunting for kindling sticks.
She canned up her garden, grew berries for jam,
Baked her own cakes and smoked her own ham.
Then in the evening by the lamp light dim
She sat with her husband, darning socks for him,
While perhaps he read her aloud a story
Or maybe the Bible in all its glory.
Women worked hard in those far off days,
And sometimes I think as I backward gaze
They worked so hard without much rest
But maybe the simple life was best.

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL

The Alberta Wheat Pool elevator was built in 1927. Its solgan is "Farmer Owned and Farmer Operated" and originally had a capacity for forty thousand bushels. By 1969 its capacity was increased to over seventy-six thousand.

Mr. Pryce Jones was the agent from 1928 to 1949 when he retired. He was replaced by Mr. H.C. (Ole) Nissen who faithfully served the community until 1968 when he also retired in Irma. Mr Garnet Wahlund served as agent from October 25, 1968 to August 10, 1973. Charlie Soucy was agent from August 23, 1973 to November 1, 1978 when he was replaced by Ray Lewis from November 1, 1978 to September 14, 1979. Gary Barber came in October of 1979 and is the present manager. A million bushels was taken in the crop year of 81-82 and also this crop year 83-84. An office assistant, Della Nilson was hired December 1, 1978 and she is presently still employed by them.

The A.W.P. bought the Federal elevator and Ray Lewis managed Pool No. 2 from March 16, 1972 to September 14, 1979. Gary Barber took over in October 1979 and the elevator was closed and emptied December 1, 1981. In the spring of 1984 it was dismantled.

A FARMER'S WIFE

She rises early every morn
And goes like mad all day.
The men are likely seeding
Or putting up the hay.

The garden needs a weeding,
The slop goes to the sow,
The chicks require feeding
And—oh yes—milk the cow!

There's dishes and the milk things,
Then rush the kids to school.
Back home to bake a pie or cake
For big meals are the rule.

Berries are waiting to be picked
And there's the bread to knead.
Ops! the cows are in the garden,
There are extra men to feed.

The crops are looking lovely,
They've all escaped the rust.
What's the big cloud up in the
sky?

Hopes are buried—hail and
dust.

She patches overalls and shirts
To keep them on the go.
On meeting days she plows the
mud,

In winter time—the snow,
She needs faith and understanding
When everything goes wrong.
Through failure and through good
time
She helps her man along.

Now if patience is a virtue
As I've heard all my life,
There's no one quite so pure of
heart
As the ideal "Farmer's Wife."



Mr. Murray cutting wheat in 1910.



Hauling grain January, 1928.

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL

226 Lougheed Building
Calgary, Alberta, June 30th, 1932.

READ OTHER SIDE

NOT NEGOTIABLE

GROWER'S STATEMENT OF DEDUCTIONS

as at July 15th, 1931.

\$ 33716.

DEDUCTIONS MADE FROM 1923-1927 POOLS

DEDUCTIONS FROM DELIVERIES OF 840-50 BUSHELS to 1928 POOL
(Commercial Reserve 9/10 of 1c. per bushel, Elevator Reserve 2c. per bushel.)

TOTAL DEDUCTIONS 1923-1928 POOL YEARS

COMMERCIAL RESERVE	ELEVATOR RESERVE
20.05	10.70
7.00	10.30
28.10	21.00

Interest has been apportioned to each member in anticipation of it being paid out (or credited to the 1929 Overpayment, as the case may be) at some future date.

NO PAYMENT OF INTEREST IS BEING MADE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

These deductions have been made and are being dealt with according to the provisions of your contract and The Alberta Wheat Pool Act.

This statement covers deductions at IRMA.

Other Stations at which you have deductions are

UNPAID INTEREST, IF ANY

INTEREST TO AUGUST 31, 1930

INTEREST TO JULY 15, 1931

TOTAL OF ACCUMULATED INTEREST

INTEREST
3.00
1.40
4.40

Station only. RG.

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL

R.D. Purdy

Manager

IRMA ALMA

E. & O. E.

KEEP THIS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL

Calgary, Alberta, June 30th, 1932.

GROWER'S STATEMENT as to 1928 and 1929 POOLS

1928 FINAL PAYMENT:—

840-50 Bus. @ 1½ per Bus.
119-

15.77
2.23

18.00

1929 OVERPAYMENT:—

132- Bus 2 @ 7.94¢ per Bus.

23.68

5.68

NET OVERPAYMENT RECEIVED BY GROWER

Membership Number 33716 Station Irma MRH.

F.J. HARDY,
IRMA MRH.

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL

R.D. Purdy

Manager

(OVER)

E. & O. E.

CAR OF SHORTHORN

March 6/25 CATTLE SOLD

Last Friday J. W. Stuart, auctioneer disposed of the balance of J. G. Clark's herd of fine shorthorn cattle to the highest bidders. Twenty five head of cows and heifers were put up at auction and sold to the following buyers. F. Pyle, 2; A. R. Harper 3; Yonker Bros. 6; Art Long 2; J. Carrington 3; C. Steele 2; B. Oldham 4; J. Hearn 1; and T. Shaw 1. The prices for the cows ranged from \$50 to \$90 each which considering the breeding and records was way below what it should have been. This stock had been shipped to Mundare a short time ago and was purchased by an Edmonton dealer who believed that by returning them to Irma, where they were known he would realize a better price than it was bringing among strangers. We understand these parties made a fair profit on the shipment which in years to come will we have no doubt be a credit to those who have been able to purchase them.

FORM 1 THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE—SEE SECTION 7 SUB-SECTION (a) THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD ACT, 1935

FIXED PRICE 87½¢ PER BUSHEL
BASIS No. 1 NORTHERN, PORT WILLIAM

THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD
Producer's Certificate—1935 Crop

No 182944 B

NAME OF PRODUCER *J. M. Hill* DATE *1935*

P.O. ADDRESS _____ PROVINCE _____

NET BUSHEL IN WORDS *Eight hundred and thirty two* BUSHEL 183

GRADE _____ PRICE *50* CASH TICKET No. or ACCOUNT SALE No. *182944* CAR No. _____

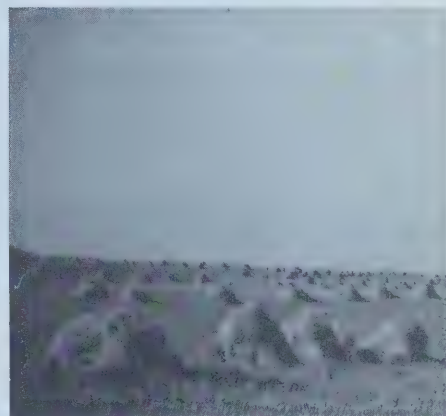
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NAMED PRODUCER HAS DELIVERED TO THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD THE QUANTITY AND GRADE OF WHEAT STATED HEREIN AND THAT THE PRODUCER HAS RECEIVED THEREFOR THE FIXED PRICE ACCORDING TO GRADE AND PLACE OF DELIVERY AS AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL. UPON SURRENDER OF THIS CERTIFICATE THE PRODUCER SHALL BE ENTITLED TO SHARE IN THE SURPLUS, IF ANY, REALIZED FROM THE MARKETING OF THE WHEAT PURCHASED BY THE BOARD OF THE SAME GRADE AFTER DEDUCTING THEREFROM A PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE MONIES DISBURSED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD FOR EXPENSES.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

(NAME OF COMPANY) _____ (PERMIT NO.) _____

STATION _____ STATION No. *14* PER _____ AGENT

NOTE:—THIS CERTIFICATE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PRESERVED FOR SURRENDER TO THE BOARD WHEN REQUIRED



Stooks at Wes Bacon's.

FEDERAL ELEVATOR

The Federal elevator was originally known as the Northern Elevator Company, but burned down in 1921 when G. Jackson was the agent. A new elevator was built in 1924 and from then until 1941 William Cole, Mrs. Cockroft's father, was the agent. Searle Grain Company bought out the Northern and in 1967 Searle Grain Company amalgamated with Federal and Alberta Pacific to become the Federal Grain Company. This elevator was purchased by the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1972 and became number two elevator.

Over the years the agents were: Duke Ott, Ivan Bolger, Colin DesJardines, Dick McRoberts, Ray Lewis and Charlie Soucy. The present agent is Gary Barber. Number two elevator was torn down in 1984.



Eastbound morning passenger train in the days of steam power at Irma.

UNITED GRAIN GROWERS ELEVATOR - IRMA

The old original elevator that United Grain Growers now owns was built in 1914 and was under the name of "The Alberta Farmers Co-operative Elevator Co. Ltd.". It had a capacity of 28,000 bushels and was built at a cost of \$8,150.00, and in 1916 a coal shed was built.

With the amalgamation of "The Grain Growers Company" and "The Alberta Farmers Co-operative Elevator Co. Ltd." it became known as "United Grain Growers Limited" in September, 1917.

A temporary 28,000 bushel balloon annex was constructed in September, 1940 and another in January, 1941. A new elevator was constructed in 1956 with a storage capacity of 70,000 bushels. The old elevator was connected to the new to operate as a permanent annex. In 1965 a 30'x40' fertilizer shed was constructed and a 34 foot - 30 ton scale was installed.

A new dwelling was built in Irma for the Managers in 1963, and they are as follows:

Harold Burkholder	1914-1917
M.M. Cook	1917-1918
L.H. Peterson	1918-1919
R.W. Maguire	1919-1922
Pryce Jones	1922-1924
L.A.A. Schon	1924-1933
A.C. Milne	1933-1941
B. Cairns	1941
T.H. Berreth	1941-1942
R.L. Simmermon	1942-1945
A.C. Milne	1945-1961
R.A. Tullson	1961-1968
Peter Shimko	1968-1974
Dale Lindmark	1974-1980
Charlie Soucy	1980-

The original member Mr. Osker Steffenson was on the board forty-three years and chairman thirty-six years, passed away on March 5th, 1982 at the age of ninety-nine years.

Over the past sixty-nine years there were thirty-nine different members that have served on the local board to-date and fourteen different elevator managers as listed.

EAST or WEST

Sometimes better prices can be obtained for your grain by shipping it to Vancouver, sometimes by shipping it to Port Arthur. This farmers company has a terminal elevator at each of these Ports. That is one of the many reasons why it is able to give you the best possible service in handling your grain.

Ship your Grain to

United Grain Growers Limited

Elevators at: Viking, Kinsella, Irma, Holden.

IRMA FLOWER SHOP

Mel and Linda Pomeroy bought the building next to the Irma Co-op owned by William Masson. After renovating the building, they opened the Flower Shop in April 1976. When business was brisk Lynn Prior worked at the flower shop as well as many others who helped during busy times.

When Melaney was a baby it became difficult to carry on the business so in 1979, the Pomeroy's moved the building and all to their own land. Here the business continued until October 1981. At that time they sold everything but the building to Blenda's Flowers of Wainwright.



Linda Pomeroy in front of her flower shop in May, 1976.

November 9, 1923 - Mr. F. Peterson returned after spending two weeks preparing samples for Government exhibit which will be sent to American fairs this winter. He spent three months the previous year working with the Alberta Government Publicity Department.

October 31, 1924 - F. Peterson received a shipment of three thousand peonies from Holland. Half a million gladiolae were taken up to be stored over winter. He has shipped bulbs and shrubs all over the western provinces.

SPRING IN THE GARDEN

*As she bends her back to spring's fresh earth,
I think of two weddings, a death and a birth
That our town has shared since last she hoed
In her little garden by that dirt road.*

*She's never seen the city's lights
The teeming traffic, those flashing lights ...
But all of life has touched her here -
She has known love, sadness and fear.*

*Her husband's "gone", her children have flown -
But she carried within the love she has known.
She looks to the sky as she hears a bird sing
And plants in her garden, oh the joy of spring.*

IRMA PERENNIAL GARDENS

HARDY SHRUBS.— SMALL FRUITS

Frank Peterson & Sons
Irma, Alberta

PEONIES

A large range of colors and shades; early varieties

	Each
Festua Maxema	50c
Madam De Vernville; white, red spots	60c
Edula Superba; light pink	40c
Officialis; earliest, red and pink	75c
Mid-Season Boule de Negri; white	40c
Ceren due Ore; cream and white	60c
La Roserie; white	40c
Indispensable; light pink	60c
Asa Grey; light pink	75c
Pompinett; pink, silver tip	60c
Felix Crouse; dark red	50c
Gen. McMahon; dark red	40c
Carl Rosenfeld; real dark red	75c
Lewis Van Huttie; white	40c
Late Baroness Schroder; large, light pink	\$1.00
Dune of Wellington; white	40c
Madam Du Guehin; pink	60c
Mons. Kerling; white	60c

ROSES

	Each
Hansa Red, long blooming	\$1.00
Saskatchewan, light pink	50c

SMALL FRUITS

Strawberry Plants:—

Sitka, a real berry for Alberta	
per 100	\$1.50
Senator Dunlop, per 100	\$1.50
Progressive, ever-bearing, per 100	\$2.50
Currants, red, each 25c, per doz.	\$2.50
Currants, black, each 25c, per doz.	\$2.50
Gooseberry, Houton, each, 25c, per doz.	\$2.50
Rhubarb, one year, each 10c, per doz.	\$1.00

SHRUBS

Catona Aster	50c
Tartarian Honeysuckle, bushy plants, 3 ft.	40c
same for hedge, 18-in.	15c
Spirea Billardea, (pink), Van Huttie, (white), Salicifolia, (cream white), Anthony Waterer, (pink), at each	25c

The first filling station in Irma was a gas pump installed on Main Street in front of Dickson's Hardware. Mr. Dickson had the Chevrolet agency until he sold the business to J.B.E. Malhoit who also had the agency. Mr. Wyatt built a garage about 1914 and had the Ford agency. The Ford Runabout cost about four hundred and seventy-five dollars and the Touring car was four hundred and ninety-five dollars at that time. In 1918 Ray Moore occupied the building that is now the Drop In Centre, and used it as a garage. He sold the building to Ed Elford in 1922 and the garage was rented to Ben Sather for one and a half years before Mr Elford had the building remodelled into a store. Carbol and White built a garage on the east side of Main Street. In the following years Ernie Peterson, Ben Sather, Obert Lovig, John Ostad, Bill Bolduc, Henry Rustand and Ed Haugan operated the garage for various periods of time. Stan Murray and Gordon Goddard operated it for a time before Gordon left the business. Stan continued on his own until his death in 1968. Ed Haugan and Gordon Meakins operated it together for some time, now Ed continues as a mechanic but there has not been a gasoline station here for some time. A garage across the street was built by Ernie Peterson and was later used as a welding shop and a residence. It is no longer in service as a business.

Wanted . . . A VISIT FROM YOU !

Call in and talk over your Spring Requirements for Farm Implements. Leave your orders with me now for that new piece of Machinery.

- Several Re-Built Tractors of different makes available.

For extra quality at no extra cost, see

SETH OLDHAM

AGENT 1930

Cockshutt, Frost & Wood, Hart Parr Tractors
PHONE 12 IRMA, Alberta



P.E. Jones in front of garage - now Drop In Centre.

Vic Hutchinson had a filling station beside the highway next to the lumberyard which is now operated by Keith Coffin. Ben Sather built and operated a garage on the southeast corner of town in 1936. John Ostad ran it for awhile, followed by Gage Pendleton in 1950. During that time it was destroyed by fire but Gage rebuilt the garage that stands today. Since it was rebuilt it has been occupied by Fuhr and Glasgow, Nesdoly Brothers, Banks Brothers, Ben Etiennes, Gordon Cosford and Gordon Meakins. It is no longer open for business. In 1946 Floyd Fuder built a garage on the west corner of town which he operated until 1951. For a year it was run by Dellrose, then by Gage Pendleton while he was rebuilding his own garage. Andy Fucsko and Bill Cashman took over and operated as Bill and Andy's until Bill left leaving Andy as sole owner. Raymond Ramsay, Elmer Helm, H. Fuhr and A. Glasgow rented the business for various periods of time. Andy operated it alone, experiencing the complete loss of the premises by fire in 1969. It was rebuilt immediately and Andy continued alone until he sold the business before moving to the Lodge in Wainwright. A modern motel and convenience store has been built beside the garage. The business has been operated by several managers since then. Mr. and Mrs. Gus Tippe and son Ron have operated the business for the last three years. In 1936 Wes Maguire built and operated a service station west of Ben Sather's garage which he operated until selling to Bob Hansen in 1940. Bob operated the business until retiring. It was opened for business again in January of 1985. In the late sixties Tom Bacon operated an auto electric shop in the garage.

Carl Christensen operated a garage in which Tripp's Machine Agency was located. Bert Wells and Wilf Symington built a garage in the 1940' where the former Edmonds Hotel had been located. It was later operated by Symington alone until 1951 when he was in partnership with Haakon Larson for three years. It was during this time that the garage was destroyed by fire and rebuilt. When Haakon went into another business, Wilf continued alone until 1956 when Morris Cooper and Erling Larson bought the business. The following year the partnership was dissolved and the garage was operated by Erling until his death in 1964. The business is now owned and operated by his wife Goldie and sons Roger, Richard and Doug.



1913 Ford Touring car owned by Truels Lindberg - driver, Viggo, Otilie and Ingrid in back seat taken in 1924.

ANNOUNCEMENT

143

TO our Customers and Friends: We
have accepted the Agency for the
British American Oil Co., at Irma,
and will endeavour to give you
Prompt Service at all times.

4.6
2.1
13

Carbol & White

FORD DEALERS

Irma, Phone 1

- - -

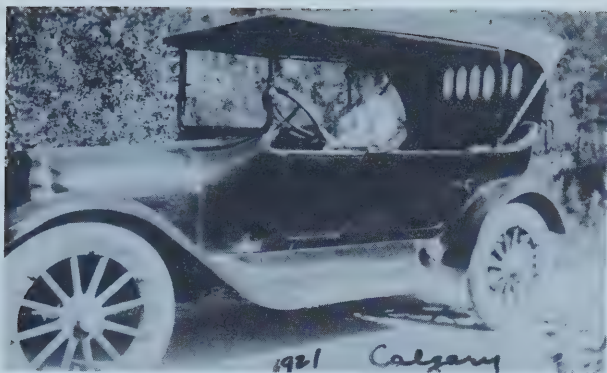
Alberta

1931 VERSION

*The Ford is my auto, I shall not want (another)
It maketh me to lie down beneath it
It soreth my soul,
It leadeth me in the paths of ridicule
For its name sake,
Yes, though I ride through the valleys
I am towed up the hills.
I fear much evil, my rods and my engine discomfort me.
I annoint my tires with patches
My radiator runneth over:
I repair my blowouts in the presence of my enemies.
Surely, if this thing follows me all the days of my life,
I shall dwell in the bug house forever.*



Ed Elford's garage with a 1926 Ford and Buick cars in front.



Ruby Elford at St. George's Island, Calgary in 1921.



Flood at Irma, 1948 (Shaw's house in foreground).

FORD = FORD

Announcing The Lowest Prices in History

Model	Old Prices	New Prices	Reduction
CHASSIS - -	\$445.00	\$395	\$50
RUNABOUT - -	495.00	455	40
TOURING - -	535.00	495	40
TRUCK CHASSIS -	575.00	545	30
The above models equipped with Electric Starting & Lighting are \$85 extra			
COUPE - -	840.00	780	60
SEDAN - -	930.00	870	60

The above models equipped with Electric Starting and Lighting. All prices are F. O. B. Ford, Ontario

O. J. ELDER, Dealer Wainwright

E. L. ELFORD

Irma Motors - - Local Representative

IRMA GARAGE

1928 Ford Sedan in good running order. Cash **\$165.00**

I sell Autolene and Penz Motor Oil in sealed quart cans. S.A.E. ratings stamped on each can.

For a good spring check-up on your car bring it in to me.

J. OSTAD. Proprietor

We Are Handling a Complete Line of ¹⁹³⁷
C. C. M. Hockey Equipment
of High Quality and Moderately Priced

Place Your Order Now and Avoid Delays

Maguire's Service Station
IRMA —:— ALBERTA

The automobile did away with the horse and now judging by statistics it looks like it is doing away with people, too.

The perfect gift for an eighteen-year-old girl used to be a compact. It still is - if it has four wheels.



1917 on Battle River Hill. McLaughlin Buick touring car. Elmer and Lloyd Erickson, Ina Knudson, Anna Erickson.



Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Tate, daughters Ethel and Margaret and Mrs. Flewelling in their backyard in Irma, 1922.



Pendleton's garage.

Junk: something you keep ten years and then throw away two weeks before you need it.

"That's the cat's pyjamas," remarked Mr. Henpeck, as he picked up his wife's sleeping-togs.



Rob Hall driving car with son, Donald behind.

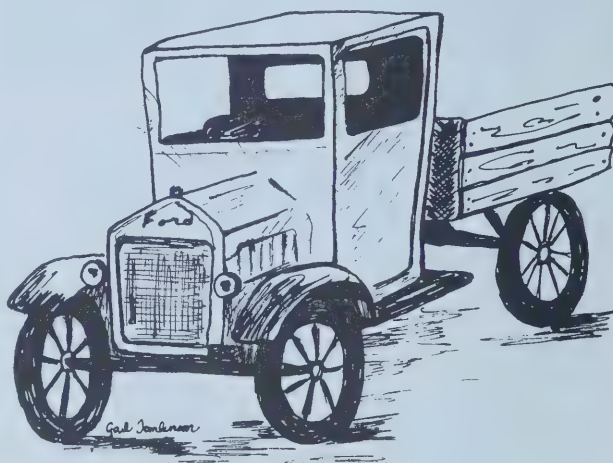
Peterson's Garage

Phone 1 Peterson & Armor, Props. 1936 Irma

MASSEY HARRIS IMPLEMENTS
GOODYEAR TIRES AND TUBES
RADIO AND CAR BATTERIES
MAGNETOS REPAIRED
CYLINDERS REBORED
BATTERIES CHARGED

General Overhauling of all makes of Cars, Trucks
and Tractors. All work guaranteed.
Cars Lubricated to Factory Specifications

1 Second-hand One-Way Disc Seeder, 8½ ft., as good as new.
14 Inch Plough Shares @ **\$2.75**



Mr. Motorist . . .

See us for complete service on—

Carbureters — Fuel Pumps
Glass Replacement — Duco Repainting
Brake Relining — Motor Rebuilding
Battery Charging

Imperial Oils and Gas in Stock. Also Batteries,
Tires and other accessories.

—O—

For Better Motoring at Less Cost, Patronize Your
Home Town Garage

Sather's Super Service

IRMA

—:—

ALBERTA

Some people are like house plants ... they suffer from too much attention.

EIGHT HOURS

A man had come to Irma town
And hired to work for farmer Brown.
He said, "I suppose out your way
The eight hour system rules your day."
The farmer looked thoughtful and scratched his head,
"The eight hour system? Why, yes," he said.
We rise at four and are working soon
And we get eight hours in by noon.
Then we go to work again by one
And it's generally nine when the chores are done.
"That's eight more, I guess," said he
"Yes, the eight hour system is good for me."

HAVING PURCHASED the interest
of Mr. Graydon my partner, I am
now prepared to serve you at a mini-
mum cost with anything we have been
handling in Groceries, Gents Wear,
Shoes, etc.

I solicit your patronage and will guar-
antee satisfaction and low prices.

June 1 1923

Lauritz Hostrup

GENERAL MERCHANT

Irma, - - - - - Alberta.

June 1 1923

Dear Madam:—

We desire to inform you we have
opened up in business in Irma handling
Groceries and Men's Wear for the pres-
ent. We can assure you of being able at
all times to give you only the best of
goods in our lines and at prices below
most stores.

You will agree with us that a store
making a specialty of one or two lines
can do better on those lines than one try-
ing to handle everything. Let us prove
it.

We trust you will give us a major
portion of your business in our lines. Our
interests are all in the district and your
welfare is ours.

Yours truly,
J. W. GRAYDON & Co.

MR. W. HOSTRUP IS ASSOCIATED WITH MR.
J. W. GRAYDON IN THIS BUSINESS

J. W. Graydon Co.

Sept 13 1922

Lidens Ltd.

N. S. JOHNSON, Manager.

IRMA

ALBERTA

May 1923

Gooceries, Dry-Gooes, Boots & Shoes, Mens' Furnishings

To them that appreciate a good cup of Coffee
Our Special Blend per lb .50
Quaker Corn Flakes 2 pkgs for .25
Quaker Quick Oats with a good chinaware
premium in each package per pkg. .45
Mixed Jam per tin .60
Mens Combination Underwear, summer weight
Penman's flat knit per suit 1.95
Mens Horse Hide Work Gloves per pair 1.00
Mens Tennis Shoes, In a good strong Duck with
the New Crepe Soles, sizes 6 to 10 per pair 1.75
Boys Tennis shoes, In a good strong Duck with

LARSON'S STORE

WE HAVE THE GOODS YOU NEED FOR
SEWING, AT THIS STORE.

SERGE

All Wool 40in. width at 85c per yard. Just the
Cloth for School Dresses.

EXTRA QUALITY SERGE—44in. width at
\$1.10 per yard. Colors, Navy, Mallard, Black,
Plum, Taupe, Brown, Scarlet.

ALL WOOL SPORT FLANNEL

All Wool Sport Flannel in Fancy Checks.
Width 54in. in the New Shades at \$2.75 yard.

NICE RANGE OF COATINGS

A Nice Range of Coatings in Chinchilla & Vel-
our Cloth width 54in. at \$2.95 to \$3.25.

NICE RANGE OF FLANNELETTES

We have a Nice Range of Flannelettes, in White
Lights and Dark Shades, at 17 1-2c to 25c

BOYS PULLOVER SWEATERS

We have just received another Shipment of
Boys heavy All Wool Pullover Sweaters, at
\$2.25. The kind of a Sweater the Boys want.

SPECIAL IN MEN'S SHIRTS

A Special in Men's All Wool Winter Shirts. Ex-
tra Heavy, at Snap at \$1.95.

Suits

NAVY BLUE SERGE
SUITS

Just in. Splendid Qual-
ity. Price \$22.50

Groceries

Royal Crown Soap

..... 30c per Carton

Life Buoy Soap

..... 3 for 25c

Lux 2 pkts 25c

Choice Quality Can-
ned Tomatoes 2 for 35c

Our policy is to give the
Best Value for the Dol-
lar and the Best Service.
We believe in Satisfy-
ing the Public at all
times.

"Look for our Next Advertisement"

CASH SYSTEM

T. A. LEDIN, Manager

GENERAL STORES

IRMA COOPERATIVE STORE

According to the auditor's report by Chandler and Patriquin of Edmonton, the first Irma Co-op began its business operation, December 1, 1912. Mr. H.W. Love was the first manager and treasurer. Other members on that first board of directors were: J.G. Clarke, president; C.J. Hill, vice-president; A.A. Fischer, secretary; E. Chase, T. Coulman, J.H. Elliott, W. King and O. Steffensen. Mr. Love was eventually succeeded by Mr. Graydon as manager.

This store was on the west side of Main Street where the Fred Jack Hardware is now. Unfortunately, due to a heavy debt load this store went into liquidation about 1920.

On March 4, 1944, a new Irma Cooperative Association, Ltd. was incorporated as the result of a public meeting regarding the purchase of the general merchandise store of A.E. Foxwell who was forced by ill health to retire. The application for incorporation was drawn up and signed by: J.B. Gulbraa, J. Jackson, A.C. Archibald, H.L. Robertson, F.T. Thurston, C.E. Fenton, T.C. Sanders, Oscar Likness, Ed Huffman, and M.I. Reitan. A provisional board was elected and charged with the responsibility of raising the capital by selling shares, and buying the business. The board members were all farmers: T.C. Sanders, president; J. Jackson, vice-president; C.E. Fenton, secretary; A.C. Archibald, F.W. Knudson, J.B. Gulbraa, and E. Erickson.

The store was purchased and the present Irma Co-op began its operation on July 1, 1944. It has, therefore, carried on successfully for over forty years. Mr. Foxwell acted as manager until Mr. Melvin McCune took over August 1, 1944. After almost two years he resigned to go into business in Jarrow.

The next manager was Mr. R.H. (Bob) Smith who had worked for Mr. Foxwell before joining the air force. Under his management the business grew, though it was hampered by rationing and the difficulty of securing adequate supplies. He resigned in 1948 for health reasons and moved to Edmonton.

Mr. Victor Torrance, who had been released from the army, took over the management until 1958, when ill health made it necessary for him to move to Edmonton. During those years the Co-op expanded into a hardware in a building on the south side of the store. This building was later sold, moved away, and replaced by a new section built onto the store. A new warehouse and enlarged cold storage unit were built; natural gas heating, and running water were installed. Other improvements included an up-to-date cash register and check-out counter, and a new meat cutter.

The manager, Mr. Milt Fahner, served faithfully since 1958 when the Board persuaded him to accept promotion from the meat department where he had worked since 1950. During his tenure further improvements were made. In 1974 the former John Deere Building on the north side of the store was acquired and renovated

somewhat. A major expansion was discussed during 1976. Federated Cooperative Ltd. was contacted for advice and following a survey of the trading area that was done by the F.C.L., the Board decided to go ahead with an expansion on the north side of the present structure.

Between the store and the John Deere building was the Irma Rest Room, owned and operated by the village. This building, which was later moved away, and lot was purchased after the Irma Cooperative agreed to the village's specification that washroom facilities which would be open to the public during business hours be installed in the store. Watson Tofield 1973 Ltd. submitted the successful tender at a cost of over \$100,000.00. This new structure which connected the John Deere building and the store was officially opened February 24, 1978. Furthermore, a new front was added to the main building to help beautify it and the town, and during the summer of 1981 new siding was installed on the south side of the store.

Over the years, the managers have been ably assisted by many hard-working employees, but none as long as Miss Evelyn White (May, 1955 - December 31, 1982) and Mr. Hans Paulson (March, 1963 - May 31, 1983). At present, Mr. Fahner is assisted by Mesdames Doreen Bell, Virginia Welch, Pam Fahner and Donna Lingley, Mr. Greg Jamison, Stanley Boomhower and Bill Pugh in the meat department. Mr. Dennis Fahner is in charge of the very busy carpet business.

The Irma Cooperative has the distinction of being the first cooperative in Canada to elect associate board members; other cooperatives have copied this. The Irma Co-op is entirely owned and operated by its members - 100% Canadian owned, 100% Irma owned. The members of the present board of directors are: A.A. Archibald, president; G. Hollinger, vice-president; E.R. Jackson, secretary; L.O. Savage, T.F. Hill, H.R. Tomlinson and R.W. Thurston, all of whom served as associate directors before they were elected to the Board. The present associate board members are Phyllis Craig, Doreen Hill and Lorna Jackson.

Milt Fahner has since passed away.



John Gulbraa used to ski to Irma Coop meetings when weather and roads were not fit for cars.



H.W. Love behind the counter at the Irma Co-op, Picture below shows customer Marjorie McNaughton.



Ten Days Cut Price Sale

starts Saturday June 15th

We are offering a few of our line in the Gents Furnishing Department at unheard of prices. In each line there are only a limited quantity at these prices so in order to avoid disappointment be in early on Saturday for the first days sale and pick out your requirements.

Shoes

In tan and black, both lace and button styles, values up to \$4.50 per pair, only a limited number of pairs. Sale Price \$2.50 per pair

Shirts

A quantity of men's laundered and negligee shirts, without collars, with collars and collars attached Regular prices to \$2.00, Saturday Sale 95c each

Caps

A number of odd sizes and styles of men's and boys' caps good value, regular prices to 1.25. Slaughter Sale price 50c each

Summer Underwear

A lot of odd garments in men's underwear have accumulated so to clear them out we are offering to the public at the low price. 50c per garment

Also a number of Penman's better grade underwear regular prices to 1.65 to clear at 1.00

Summer Underwear

A lot of odd garments in men's underwear have accumulated so to clear them out we are offering to the public at the low price. 50c per garment

Also a number of Penman's better grade underwear regular prices to 1.65 to clear at 1.00

Boys and Youths Suits

A good assorted stock of boys and youths ranging in price from 4.50 to 16.00

Ladies Counter Bargains

Now ladies just look over the "Bargain Counter" for shoes, waists, etc. to be offered at ridiculous prices on Saturday and the following 10 days.

IRMA CO-OPERATIVE CO.



Ed and Ruby Elford's store in Irma.

A bargain is something you can't use at a price you can't resist.

THE FIVE AND TEN CENT STORE

*It really looked like heaven
When we walked through the door;
A sort of magic kingdom
Was the five and ten cent store.
The floors were worn and shiny,
With counters heaped so high,
Containing all a child desired -
A charm for every eye.
The candy counter seemed endless,
With a mass of chocolate drops,
And licorice sticks and candy hearts
And Sugar Daddy pops.
For school we'd buy a tablet,
And chalk and colored pens,
And those wooden pencil cases
Were all the rage back then.
We picked out little doilies
And then we bought the thread
To embroider birds and flowers
In designs of blue and red.
The jewelry counter sparkled
With pins and strings of pearls,
And bows of glossy taffeta
Would perk up any curls.
And when we looked at all the toys
Our hearts would beat and pound;
The games and books and paper dolls
Would leave us all spellbound.
I think I'd like to turn back time,
With one single dollar to spend -
I would buy just everything ...
Or at least I would pretend!*

Thanks to modern packaging, for the first time in history one bag of groceries produces two bags of garbage.

Sign on a Senior Citizen's bus: "We're off our rockers."



New front on Co-op Store - 1977.

**Let's Have a Good Cup of
COFFEE**

Regular 29c 3 lb for **85c**
Coffee at.....
McLaren's real quality **55c**
Glass jar, per lb
Blue Mill, 3 lb cartons. **90c**
To clear at

SODAS

Regular 15c pkgs. @ **10c**

TEA

Broken Pekoe, — a mighty fine
quality. 1 lb **45c**
3 lb for **1.25**

FISH

Salted Herring, 6 for **25c**
Fresh Herring, 6 for **25c**
Kegs Herring, each **98c**
Lutefish, per lb **10c**
Gaffelbiters, 5 lb pail **1.35**

STERLING FLOUR

First grade flour made by the
Strome Flour Mills.
98's First Patent **2.98**
98's Whole Wheat **2.98**
100 lb Bran **1.25**
Wheatlets, 7 lb sacks. **35c**
They are different

Jan 10, 1936

Winter Footwear

Overshoes and Felt Shoes, new
stock and No. 1 quality only.
Every Pair A Real Buy !

OVERALLS

Odd sizes in Bibs @ **98c**

Heavy Doeskin Shirts

Assorted colors and sizes, regu-
larly priced at \$2.25. **1.85**
While they last, each

JAM

Apple and strawberry. **42c**
Very fine grade, a tin.....

PLENTY FOR ALL

Many More Real Bargains
Not Advertised

COCOA

Rountrees, regular 19c lb.
3 Pounds for **49c**

LANTERNS

Beacon, only a few, each **.98**

Men's Mackinaws,

Men's Heavy Mackinaw Coats.
Several sizes, a real **4.95**
snap. Each

Men's Windbreakers

Some doeskin, some wool and
some zipper fronts. **1.98**
Just look! Each

MEN'S MITTS

Men's mule skin pullovers **29c**

DATES

Unpitted, 2 lb for **19c**
Pitted, 2 lb for **30c**

FIGS

Large and Plump, 2 lb **25c**

MINCE MEAT

Good quality, per pound **13c**
(Bring your own container)

SALT

Free running, 2 tubes .. **19c**

ROLLED OATS

Quick cooking, 8 lb bag **38c**

BATTERIES

Radio B's, extra heavy **3.69**
Flash Light Batteries 2 for **25c**
C Batteries, each **35c**
All up to the minute stock !

Irma Trading Co.

IRMA,

Elford's

ALBERTA

A. E. FOXWELL

IRMA

The Store that Serves You Best

MEATS—GROCERIES—DRY GOODS

Phone 13

Terms Cash

Clerk _____ Date _____ 193

Name _____

Address _____ Am't Rec'd _____

1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			



Announcement

We are now settled in our new location across the street from where we were. We are ready to give you quick, courteous and honest business! Come in and let us do our business together. This is the beginning of a new year, and we all like to save what we can.

Your business, no matter how large or small, is appreciated.

F. A. Fuder & Co.

F. A. Fuder and Dad.

Phone 19

Irma, Alberta.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

August 2 1918
To the residents of Irma and
the surrounding country, we beg to
intimate to you that our new store
is now open for business.

We purpose carrying a complete
stock line of GENERAL DRY
GOODS, GROCERIES, BOOTS
AND SHOES.

With our long and varied ex-
perience in the business, we con-
fidently hope to meet the wants of
every home.

Yours respectfully,

J. C. McFARLAND & Co

J.C. McFARLAND AND COMPANY

Mr. J.C. McFarland and Mr. Skiles had an established grocery business in northern Edmonton in 1913. With the advent of World War One business fell off there. It was suggested they re-locate in Irma as there was only one store here at that time.

Late in 1917 Mr. Pitfield of the grocery chain called Mr. McFarland to see if they would consider starting a grocery store in Irma. In 1918 they came to investigate the possibilities. Mr. P.J. Hardy of the lumber company assured them that the residents were anxious to have another store and that a Mr. H.J. Jones was willing to put up a building if he could be sure of a tenant.

Thus the present McFarland's store was built on the basement of the previously burned out Henderson Hotel. The south two-thirds of the building was to be a general store while the other third was occupied by druggist, C.A. Bassett, with Doctor Murray McGregor's office at the back of the drug store.

The first year of business was disastrous with everything flooded out. Even potatoes had to be imported. In 1918 the crops were dried out - all but one elevator closed due to lack of business.

Mr. McFarland passed away in the store early in 1919 and Mr. Skiles retired due to ill health in 1933. Mr. Ross McFarland obtained compassionate leave from the army to join Mr. Skiles in the business. Mr. Stan Brown joined the staff in 1933 and remained a faithful employee for thirty-five years. Mrs. Mina Inkin served many years as well.

The store was remodelled in 1940 and again in 1961. Ross Junior joined the staff and took over the business after his father's death and operates it today with the help of Mrs. Shirley Ronjom and Miss Patti Jones.



Mr. Guiltner who was the McFarlands first customer with Ross McFarland.



Ross McFarland, Stan Brown, and Mrs. McFarland.



McFarland's Store in 1918: Ross, Senior in uniform; Joseph at the south corner with his dog.

NEVER HAVE WE SHOWN A LINE OF FLAN-
NELETTES THAT HAVE GONE OVER
LIKE THIS LAST ONE. THE VAL-
UE IS MOST OUTSTANDING.

27-28in. ENGLISH FLANNELETTE —
Not a cheap number but a Real Good Heavy
Weight Flannelette in Very Attractive Patterns,
Great Body and Finish.
1 Yard for 17c; 6 Yards for \$1.00

36in. WINCEYS —
Just the thing for Women's and Children's Wear.
Very Fine and Soft with a Lovely Fleecy Nap. Full
36in. wide, comes in Peach, Pale Blue, Maize and
Light Jade.
Per Yard 29c

36in. HEAVY WHITE ENGLISH FLANNELETTE
This is one of Manchester's very best cloths, made
with a strong, firm body and an overlay of Soft,
Cozy Fleece.
Per Yard 30c; 10 Yards \$2.90

Women's Stanfield Underwear



STANFIELD'S No. 1481 WINTER COMBS —
For Women, made with tubular trim and Very
Neatly Tailored. Short sleeve and ankle length.
Comes in Cream shade and nice elastic rib.
Each \$2.25

STANFIELDS ALL WOOL COMBS —
Made in good Medium Weight of Soft Non-Irri-
tating Wool. Short sleeve and ankle length.
Each \$3.00

VESTS, DRAWERS AND BLOOMERS —
Also in No. 1481.

WOMEN'S SPECIAL WINTER COMBS—\$1.15
Made from Soft, Egyptian Cotton Spring Needle
Knit in Winter Weight. Cream shade with light
inside fleece. Well made with strap top and knee
length.
Special Value..... \$1.15
1928

IRMA MARKET

WHEAT Feb 16/22

No. 1. Nor.	1.37
No. 2 Nor.	1.04
No. 3. Nor.	.99c
No. 4. Nor.	.91c

OATS

2 C. W.	31c
No. 1. Feed	28
No. 2. Feed	25c

BARLEY

3 C. W.	40c
4 C. W.	34c
Feed	25c

Grocery Specials

A COFFEE SPECIAL FOR HARVEST

For the Week's Selling

MALKIN'S BEST COFFEE—Coffee at its Best
1 lb Tins.....39c 5 lb Tins 1.89

APPLES—Lovely Cooking apples. 10 lb 49c

VELVET COFFEE—5 lb in a useful pail. 1.79
Premium in each pail. Good coffee

KING HOOKON COFFEE—Our regular \$1
39c coffee. This week @ 3 lb

TEA—Malkin's Best Orange Pekoe Tea. 1.62
3 lb in glass jar

CHEESE—Spread-Easy Golden Leaf in 59c
2 lb Bricks

SOAP—Alberta Brown Laundry. 10 Bars 25

Saturday - Monday Extra Specials

DAIRY BUTTER, Choice. 35c
TWO pounds for

MARMALADE—Pure Orange. 47c
4 lb Tin
Aug 26/1928



Early Irma Businessmen. Back Row: Dr. McGregor, Angus Dickson,
Bill Stewart, Bert Stewart. Front Row: Ed McDowell, Jack Elliott, Jack
Tate, Slim Peterson.

The War it not yet over—Buy
Victory Bonds.

If there isn't much local news in
the paper this week blame it onto
the Flu.

Irma has had a gasoline famine
for the last week.



HAIRDRESSERS

Grace Peterson was the first hairdresser to set up shop in a small room off the Co-op Hall above the Co-op Store. With no running water this was no easy task. She gave marcel and had an electric heater to heat the irons. The electricity was generated by a Delco plant located in Elford's Garage. Invariably the thing would break down when a lady wanted a marcel and Grace had to heat the irons on a wood alcohol burner. She gave finger waves whenever possible. It really wasn't a paying proposition, fifty cents for a hair cut, one dollar for a finger wave and one dollar and fifty cents for a marcel. She gave up the business in 1929 to marry Charlie Archibald. Myrtle Fitzpatrick was next to do hairdressing in a shop at Mrs. E.W. Carter's home where the Boomhowers now live.

According to the Irma Times, Helen Samenuk did hair in 1935 for awhile. In 1939 Margaret Brandon set up a hairdressing shop in Mrs. Long's house. Following this Miss A. Klontz and Ethel Maynham used these facilities. Miss Szoke did hair twice a week in Irma and the rest of the week in Hardisty. Mrs. Jack Peterson also did hairdressing out of her home in Irma.

In 1959 Verla Belton had a fine shop in the old egg grading station. Verla was Irma's main hairdresser for years, even doing it in her home after her marriage to Bill Belton.

Adeline Hockett, Dorothy Reed, Clara Adamson, Faye Barber and Correen Prosser each had a business in her home for awhile. Arlene Drader was a hairdresser in her home for several years. When the Costells lived in Irma, Brenda ran a good business but retired when Marilyn Ruzicka had a fully modern shop built in the Hedley Block. Lorraine Hanson is the present operator.

Over the years two faithful hairdressers have been Audrey Inkin and Colleen Gwinn. Audrey operates from her home east of Irma and Colleen handles her business from her home west of town. Lorraine closed shop in 1985.



HARDWARE

Milburn Brothers built and operated a general store in Irma around 1909. This store was destroyed by fire in 1911. They built a new store on the corner of 50 Avenue and 50 Street, but sold out to Angus Dickson prior to 1915. From the Irma Times of 1918 it states that the Mr. Love of the Co-op Store and Mr. Dickson decided to specialize. Mr. Dickson took over the hardware and harness business and the Co-op handled groceries and dry goods. Thus the first hardware came into being. The next hardware man was Mr. Kitchen who was followed by Mr. Tucker.

In 1927 Jack Fletcher purchased the business and operated it until he moved into the Hedley Block in the thirties. Jack retired in 1942 and sold out to the Imperial Lumber Co. Mr. R.L. Rohrer and later Mr. Meno McLaughlin operated the business for Imperial Lumber.

Mr. Fred Jack purchased the business in 1952 and he and his wife Lois operated it until Fred's passing in 1984. In the late seventies Fred took over the Treasury Branch and operated it in conjunction with the hardware.



Fletcher's hardware corner of Main and Fiftieth.



IRMA HOTELS

In 1909 Herb Henderson was the operator of the first hotel in Irma which was situated on the J.C. McFarland Block and part of the former P.E. Jones lot. It was destroyed by the fire in 1911 that destroyed the whole block.

In 1913 Sam Cameron and John Watson built a feed mill which was located where the former Larson's Garage was situated. It was rebuilt into a hotel with the first manager, Mr. Wilson who stayed for about six months before he had to leave because of ill health. Mr. and Mrs. Preston managed it for a number of years and were followed by Mr. and Mrs. Hubbs who stayed for a year. Mr. and Mrs. Edmonds bought the building and rented rooms and served meals. Later this building was torn down.

In 1915 Barker's Temperance Hotel, the old Club Cafe, was in operation.

Tom Shaw bought Bruce Armstrong's Drug Store, located where the Kopper Kettle Restaurant is, in 1916 and remodelled it into a hotel. Over seven years of prohibition in Alberta came to an end on May 10, 1924. Tom Shaw sold the hotel to George Hipperson who applied for a liquor license in 1929 but it was not approved. Louie Hager leased the hotel from Hipperson in 1930 for a short time before the fire on April 13, 1931 which destroyed the whole block.

From 1931 to 1950 there was no hotel in Irma, however the old Club Cafe had rooms to let and Mrs. Bert Long turned the upstairs in her home into travellers' rooms.

In the fall of 1949 the Irma Hotel Company Limited was formed and construction began on the present hotel situated where the former Lattner Machine Shop was located. A contest was held to name the hotel, with four hundred and fifty-eight names submitted. The name "Gratton View Hotel" was chosen with Jean Larson



Car headed south on Main Street past Co-op store, H.W. Love's, Shaw Hotel.

(now Nichol) and Bob Dempsey sharing the prize of two hundred dollars. In 1950 the dining room and rooms were opened for business under the management of Frank and Irene Drewicki. After a second plebiscite a beer license was obtained. In 1956 living quarters were built on and in 1972 changes were made to the beverage and dining rooms to allow liquor and wine to be served on the premises. In 1978 Frank and Irene sold the hotel to Wes and Betty Parsons, with Jim and Gerry Kirkman managing it. It was then purchased by Bob Dunbar in 1980 with Kerri McCollum as manager. Present owners are Keith Graham and Ken Frymart and it is now known as the Irma Hotel.



Mrs. Shaw and three girls - April, 1923.

GOVERNMENT LIQUOR CONTROL ACT OF ALBERTA APPLICATION FOR BEER LICENSE

Public notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends applying to the Alberta Liquor Control Board for a License to sell Beer by the glass, or open bottle, for consumption in conformity with the provisions of the Government Liquor Control Act of Alberta, and regulations made thereunder, with respect to the following premises:

The Edmonds Hotel, located on Lots 37 and 38, Blk No. 8, Plan No. 1560, North side of Second Avenue, in the Village of Irma, Province of Alberta.

Dated at Irma, Alberta, this 8th day of August, 1924.

CHARLES OLSON, Applicant

IF YOU WANT TO EAT
WELL
IF YOU WANT TO SLEEP
WELL
IF YOU WANT THE BEST
SERVICE

STOP AT
EDMONDS HOTEL, IRMA

1917



Palma Berg, Dicka Fluevog, beside Shaw Hotel.

INSURANCE AGENCIES AND REAL ESTATE

Although not much is known of the insurance agencies in the early years, it is known that P.J. Harvey sold life insurance prior to 1915. The elevator agents sold insurance for several years. Arthur Charter was secretary-treasurer of the village for seventeen years and sold insurance during that time. Mr. Masson sold insurance from his office. Don Creasy became town secretary-treasurer in 1962 and took over the insurance agency as well, taking over Mr. Masson's insurance business in 1970. The business, Creasy Agencies, is carried on at the village office. In 1952 Ole Nissen became agent for Co-op Insurance and conducted the business from his home. His wife, Audrey, has carried on the business since his death. We are fortunate to have two dedicated people serving our needs in this area.

3 Good Buys In Irma Territory

FOR THE WHEAT GROWER

A SECTION—One of the most desirable sections in this part of the country is offered at an attractive figure. 180 acres broken, 90 acres of fine wheat and 90 acres oats. The owner asks \$25.00 per acre, the purchaser to take off the crop and deliver one half of it to the seller. \$5000 cash will handle it. Only 5 miles from town.

FOR THE STOCK FANCIER

A HALF-SECTION—A Most desirable stock farm location for the growing of breeding and show stock. Very close to station. Land lays in a way that an attractive looking place can be easily built up. Good fencing, some buildings. Rich loam land, plenty of acreage suitable for the growing of feeds and tame pasture, fine well water. Half section adjoining may be bought. For quick sale \$7500 and \$1500 cash will buy

FOR THE DAIRYMAN

A QUARTER-SECTION—This portion of the country offers splendid inducements for the production of milk. A large variety of dairy feeds will do well here. This particular farm has 6 sections of open grazing land, covered with heavy growth of prairie grass, composed of many varieties, ideal milk making feeds. Farm with buildings and fencing at \$20 per acre. Only five miles from station with good trails and telephone.

Write for detailed description or come and see us. We have others of these types and feel sure we can suit you.

RANSOM LAND COMPANY

IRMA CALGARY NANTON

1917

BUY A FARM While Land is Cheap

Feb. 1923

THE IRMA DISTRICT OFFERS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN WISHING GOOD GRAIN OR STOCK FARMS

Good soil, the finest grass in Alberta, plenty of good water, good railway accommodation, English speaking settlers, land values that are bound to increase. Irma is situated on the Canadian National Railway, (G. T. P. Division), one hundred and ten miles southeast of Edmonton, has the best prospects of large oil and gas developments in the province, three elevators, three general stores, two lumber yards, Bank of Montreal branch, butcher shop, stock yards, hardware store, garage, barber shop, public and high school, church, one of the most modern creameries in the province and every business needed to make a good live town. Irma has long been noted for the excellent quality of grain and cattle raised on its farms. The grand champion shorthorn steer at the recent show held at Guelph, Ont., was from J. G. Clark & Sons farm near Irma. Following are a few listings of farms near Irma. If you are in a position to buy a good farm, either for an investment or a future home, come to Irma and look these over. For further particulars write to Irma Farm Exchange, Irma, Alberta.

Listing No. 1—\$1000.00 cash, balance easy terms, 160 acres, good heavy soil, surface rolling with good bluffs. One mile from school, four miles from Irma, good wire fence, 30 acres has been broken, watered by good slough. Price \$15.00 per acre.

Listing No. 7—\$500.00 Cash, balance arranged at 6 per cent. 160 acres, 40 acres broken, good well, plastered house, barn 16 x 24 for six horses, good soil, only 3 1-2 miles from Irma, a big snap at \$15.00 per acre.

Listing No. 9, \$500.00 Cash, balance arranged on easy terms at 7 per cent., 160 acres, good heavy black soil, clay subsoil, 100 acres tillable, balance rolling, with heavy brush, well fenced, good grass and shade, log and frame shack 12 x 24 with shingle roof, four and a half miles from Irma, three miles from good school, good neighbors, section of open land adjoining, ideal place for dairying and mixed farming. Price only \$12.00 per acre.

People who think they know everything annoy those of us who do.

LIVERY BARN

In 1908 George Tripp built a large livery barn which was the landmark of the district. It was built in the vicinity south of Median Automotives. Later it had to be enlarged to serve farmers who needed a place to have their horses watered and fed. Other people who operated the livery stable were Harvey Patterson, Percy Jones, W. Bibby and in 1930 by Charlie Pyle.

In August 1931 a fire of unknown origin claimed the livery barn which had been one of the busiest places in the district before the advent of trucks and automobiles. A couple of years later Fred Knudson bought the lumber, hauled it to his farm and he and his brother Albert reassembled it on Fred's farm where it stands today.

During the lean thirties the livery barn served as a sleeping place for those who rode the rods.

Emil Lovig converted a garage into a livery barn. Jim Paul was last to operate the business.



Gene and May Carter, 1918, a Sunday drive with livery team.

THE LOCKER PLANT

The locker plant building was erected in the year 1918 by William Wyatt, then a resident of Irma. He later traded it for a farm south of Hardisty. Mr. Ray Moore who was the first occupant of the building operated it as a garage for storing cars and selling gas. In 1922 the building was taken over by Mr. Ed. Elford who had the Ford agency and later Chevrolet. The first Light Plant in Irma was a 3 KW Delco operated by Charles Lattner and housed in this building. Mr. Elford later took over this plant and added three more similar units. As the village grew, a large diesel unit from England was installed. Mr. Thornely Elford wired most of the houses. In 1928 Calgary Power came to Irma and Mr. Elford sold the plant to that company.

In 1936 Mr. Elford remodelled the building and opened a General Store and Butcher Shop. This business was carried on until 1947 when it was sold to Colin McLean and Robert Kirkman under the name of Kirkman and McLean. The following year they installed the locker plant at the back of the store. This was a wonderful service to the community as few people had freezers of their own at that time. In 1949 Colin McLean died and Robert Kirkman carried on the business until in 1950 Larry Meyer took over the company. The north half of the store was made into family living quarters and the south half into a butcher shop. Larry's meat, especially his pork products became famous in this part of Alberta.

In 1965 Larry Meier sold his business to Phil May and moved to Wainwright. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmermon managed the business for two years when it was sold to Frank Ford. Frank carried on the business for a short time before closing it down.

The building remained vacant for a good number of years until the New Horizons Club purchased it in 1974. They renovated it from top to bottom and have made it into a very comfortable drop-in centre.



Early livery barn in Irma, some of the men shown are George Tripp, Orville Chase and John Watson.



This is the barn on the land formerly owned by Mr. Fred Knudson. It used to be part of the Livery Barn in Irma. When it was put up for sale, Fred bought it and tore it down board by board, brought it out to his farm and reassembled it there. This land is now owned by Mr. Jack McKay.

IRMA LUMBER YARDS

The Imperial Lumber Co. built their lumber yard in Irma in 1910 where the present lumber yard is. Mr. Joe Hardy was manager and the grounds were similar in size but the fence around was of slabs or poles. In 1915 Mr. Hardy built his own lumber yard called the Farmers Mutual Lumber Co. where the first curling rink was built. He operated this until in the early 1930's when he and his wife moved to Edmonton.

The Imperial Lumber Company continued to operate with managers James Fleming, H.A. Clute, Carl Finch, (who married Leila Ambler while here), Mr. Tommy Marsden and Mr. Herbert Black who operated it from 1940 until his retirement more than twenty years later. Mr. Sam Congdon, who had worked under Mr. Black, was then manager followed by Ron Rae. The lumber yard was closed for awhile and reopened by Mr. Jerry Hurst under the name Hurst's Building Supplies. Mr. and Mrs. Brekstad took over the business, from Jerry Hurst, selling out to Ron Dempsey. Ron Dempsey now operates the business under the name Irma Lumber and Building Supplies.

In 1918 Fred Johnston operated the Alberta Lumber Company Ltd.

In 1939 Mr. Ches Feero opened a lumber yard on west side of Main Street north of the Club Cafe which he operated until 1943.



THE IMPERIAL LUMBER CO., LTD.

Are you wondering where to buy your next bill of lumber?

Why not ask your neighbor—he got his from us—ask him if he had any trouble with us showing him one grade, attempting to load him with an inferior grade and ask him if he did not get satisfaction and a better deal than offered him any place else

Talk it over with whom you please but see us before buying.

THE IMPERIAL LUMBER CO., Ltd.

H. A. CLUTE, Local Mgr. - - - IRMA, ALTA

A Good Farm

—IS WORTH GOOD BUILDINGS—

Any farm is good that provides a living for the family. Comfortable buildings help to make a poor farm good and a good farm better.

Even the land that has been ruined and "turned to the Lord" may be brought back to life by the aid of live stock; but first you must have buildings and fences to make the live stock comfortable.

Each farm is shy a building or two, and most farms need more fencing. Fences for range, health and pasture; barns and stables for storage and winter feeding.

If animals require all their feed to keep them alive and warm, then the grain is being burned for fuel, while the animals are marking time. Time may not be much of an object to the animal, but it is to the owner.

BUY THAT CAN'T SAG GATE AND YOUR FENCE POSTS NOW

Alberta Lumber Company, Ltd.

FRED S. JOHNSTON, Manager. IRMA TIMES 1917 IRMA, ALTA.



Mrs. Almina Hill, Irene Hardy, Joe Hardy, Theodore Hill in front of Joe Hardy's lumber office.

Good Homes Make A Contented People

Contentment is the First Step to Prosperity

BUILD NOW

We have the Building Material you need to build that good Home.

Good clean Fir or Spruce Dimension, Shiplap and Boards, Edge Grain Cedar Shingles and the finest of Clear slash grain fir Finish for the interior trim.

When Better Lumber is made, Hardy will sell it.

The Farmers Mutual Lumber Co., Ltd.

P. J. HARDY, Manager - - - Irma, Alta.

IRMA MACHINE AGENCIES

Irma, at various times, had agencies for nearly all the machine companies. We are indebted to the Irma Times and "Times of Irma" for information they contributed to this account.

The first machinery sold in the Irma district was Frost and Wood and Cockshutt, sold by Tom Coultman in 1908 at his farm. In 1924 George Tripp had the Cockshutt agency, followed by Ed Elford. In 1928 it was taken over by Dick Larson who had purchased the old Ford garage from Ray Moore. It was located on Second Avenue, for use as an agency. In August of 1928 he received the first combine that was shipped to the Irma district. The new machine was known as the Baldwin Gleaner, which cut and threshed at the same time, saving the expense of binder twine and the extra handling of straw and bundles. In 1937 Simmons and Sons had the agency, followed in 1939 by Seth Oldham who managed it for two years and received a gold medal for having the highest percentage of increase in sales in Alberta in 1940. In 1949 Bob Hansen took over the agency for two years, followed by Elmer Helm who operated it for two years from the Hansen building. Following this, the partnership of Hans Rodewoldt and Jerry Hurst had the agency. In 1960 Stan Murray and son Johnny sold Cockshutt machinery in the Corner Service Station, now operated by Ed Haugan. In 1963 Cockshutt amalgamated with Oliver. The dealership in Irma was closed in 1967. The Oliver agency began in 1929 when Dick Larson had the agency. Then Obert Lovig had it, operating from the old jeweller's shop north of the Village Office on Main Street. In 1950 Obert sold the business to Wilf Symington and Haakon Larson who were operating Central Garage. In 1956 Erling Larson and Morris Cooper bought this garage and had the agency with Erling continuing the business alone from April of 1957 until it amalgamated with Cockshutt.



George Tripp's office: Beckett Thompson, George Tripp, C.T. Hill.

The first agency in Irma was the Massey Harris agency operated in 1910 by Ed McDowell and Jack Tate in a building on Main Street where the Co-op now stands. In 1917 and 1918 McDowell operated the business alone. There was competition from Jarrow those early years. The Jarrow Auto Supply handled both Massey Harris and J.I. Case machinery in 1919. In 1920 McDougall and Morrison of Jarrow had the agency. In 1925 Bob Simmermon, who had worked for Massey Harris in Saskatchewan came to Irma and took it over. Bob had it for nearly two years before George Tripp took over, followed by Vic Hutchinson who took over the agency in 1931 for two or three years. Changing hands again it went to Ernie Peterson, who had a garage business on Main Street where Ed Haugan's shop is now located. Later Ernie built his own shop across the street on the corner where Bill Belton later operated his machine shop. In 1943 Ernie went farming and the Massey Harris agency reverted to Vic Hutchinson who operated from his service station by the highway next to the lumber yard. In the spring of 1946 Keith Coffin went into partnership with Vic. Ferguson tractors and Gleaner combines were marketed by Waterloo Machinery with Bob Hansen having the agency in 1948 and 1949. About this time Ferguson sold his machinery company to Massey Harris which resulted in the change of name to Massey Ferguson Industries. From 1958 to 1960 Keith operated this business alone, until he became partners with Dick McRoberts and operated under the name of Coffin and McRoberts Farm Supplies. Massey Ferguson decided to close the agency in Irma in December 1980, hoping that with the agency closed here, they would find it easier to open an agency in Wainwright. This has not proved to be the case. Now alone, Keith Coffin Farm Supplies handles belts, bearings and a few parts.



R. W. Maguire and Service Station on highway. Sather's garage is on the right.

**I have Improved Farm
Lands, O.P.B. and Hudson
Bay Lands, Union Fruit
Lands for sale. Insurance
of all kinds in the best Companies
in Canada, also Loans negotiated
on shortest notice at lowest current
rates. Call and see me.**

J.H.S. Armstrong

The John Deere agency was started in Irma by Bill Stewart and Warren Peterson about 1910. Wyatt and Peterson sold a 14-28 oil pulled Rumley tractor and a 24-46 separator to Henry Kasten in May, 1918. Moore Brothers had the agency in August 1919, taking over from J.W. Wyatt. Carl Anquist took over in 1935. Everyone remembers jovial Carl, who was fond of coffee and liked company while drinking it. He would round up some men and say "Let's go for coffee!" This is a habit the men of Irma have never gotten away from each morning and afternoon. Haakon Larson took over the agency from Carl and operated it until the spring of 1967, when the agency in Irma was closed and Haakon became the agent in Wainwright.

The International Harvester Company agency was started in Irma in 1910 by A. Barker, followed by A.A. Dickson. E. Chase had the International agency as well as the agency for other companies before he left for the United States in 1912. C. Burrows held it for a short time in 1917 with Mr. Dickson who continued in the business until Ketchin and Company took over in 1919. G.L. Morrow had the agency following this. In 1922 Percy Jones took over the agency, continuing until his family, Clifford, Gary and Audrey took over the business in 1953. The agency was closed in 1966.



Steel wheel tractor on plow.



Mel Moon on tractor and George Herber Duncan, an I.H.C. Traveller on Irma Mainstreet 1928 (west side of mainstreet before fire).



Mules moving grain separator.



P.E. Jones making a sale to customer.

In 1919 A. Christensen of Jarrow had the agency for J.I. Case. It was first sold in Irma by George Tripp in 1920 until the late twenties. The next dealer was Wes Maguire who built a service station by the highway - remember the "big bird", an eagle on the globe by his place of business? The agency was taken over by Bob Hansen when he bought the garage in 1940. Floyd Fuder built a garage by the highway on the west side of the village and was the agent for Case in 1949 and 1950. The last Case agent was Gage Pendleton who operated his business from 1954 to about 1963 from the garage he built on the Ben Sather garage site.

Several other agencies were operated in Irma over the years. In 1918 United Grain Growers were advertising U.G.G. "Acme Giant Mowers" and "Self Dump Sulky Rakes". They also had U.G.G. breaking discs, sulky and gang plows, disc harrows and cultivators. McDougall and Morrison of Jarrow handled Hart Parr in 1920. From 1929 the agency for Hart Parr in Irma was handled by Dick Larson for a few years. At that time the company would take horses in trade on anything from a pump engine to tractors. Carl Anquist had the agency for Allis Chalmers, along with John Deere, for about ten years before it was taken over by Andy Fucsko and his partner Bill Kachman, who had the agency in 1955 and 1956. Obert Lovig sold Rockal tractors in the early fifties. They were being wholesaled in Alberta by former Irma resident, Ed Elford, of Edmonton. Obert also sold Dempster cultivators.

Did you know that in 1932 all operators of threshing rigs and combines in Alberta, whether for private or public use, were required to be registered annually by the Department of Agriculture? The fee was one dollar. In 1984 the only machine agent in Irma is Median Automotive, owned by Goldie Larson and Sons. They carry a supply of Renn Machinery and Ezee-On loaders, cultivators and discs. They also sell some parts for several different makes of machinery. The earliest recorded machinery agents were marketing horse-drawn field machinery, with threshing machines and tractors coming soon after. The rapid change came with rubber-tired tractors and farm equipment during and following World War Two. With the machine companies no longer part of our communities the farmers and their wives find themselves travelling to Wainwright, Vegreville, Vermilion, Lloydminster, Provost, Loughheed, Sedgewick and Camrose for needed parts - sometimes more than one place to repair a machine - and sometimes have to have them flown in from more distant parts.



15 foot combine, Massey and International tractor (on George Ford's land)



Coalsprings Tractor in 1942.

Plow Shares

Save Worry and Express by buying your Plow Shares at Home
I can give you all size Shares for Massey-Harris Plows

12 inch Plow Shares		each	\$3.00
14 inch Plow Shares		each	\$3.25
16 inch Plow Shares		each	\$3.75

Massey-Harris Machinery

Massey-Harris Machinery is built right, to run easily and give
Good Service. I carry a Fully Supply of Repairs. At your
Service at All Times

R. L. Simmermon

Massey-Harris Agent

IRMA, ALBERTA

925



*The binder on my father's farm, an old McCormick-Deering,
Ran faithfully for forty years, a marvel of engineering.
The rear chain ran the knotter, canvas, packers, knife and reel,
And when it flew to pieces, it stopped every cog and wheel.
As pioneers can tell you, twas a temperamental thing;
It ran like magic, mile on mile, quite trouble-free, then . . . bing!*

*My father disliked swearing, cursing, slang and such,
When something nasty happened, he'd say, "Thank you very much!"
A fine example for us kids; we used it too, you see,
With varying intonations to fit each catastrophe.*

*One day I brought the coffee out (the memory makes me grieve),
I heard, as I came round the bluff, words I could not believe!
The binder stood immobile, horses in restful ease,
And in a patch of thistle, was father . . . on his knees!*

*He met my shocked, reproving stare, shouting, "It's got a jinx!
Just hand me over the coffee, and you . . . you look for links!
That chain's jumped off six times today; I've used up my last spare;
Driving a blank-blank binder would make a preacher swear!"*



John Barss and Harley Barss (1930 tractor purchased in 1928), binder purchased 1930.

A Worn Out 1931 Tractor

Is a poor machine to try and get your crop threshed with. The Massey-Harris Co., have on hand some real Tractor Bargains. Think of it. Tractors that have only done one season's work and have been thoroughly overhauled in their own shop by their own workmen and repainted. Fully guaranteed and selling at from \$600.00 to \$800.00.

The real value of these Tractors is at least \$1,000. But they are being offered at this Exceptionally Low Price to clear the stock.

Better see your agent at once before they are all sold.

V. HUTCHINSON,
Blacksmith

Massey Harris Agent
Phone 12, Irma

RICHARD LARSON

Phone 38.

IRMA,

:

ALTA



OLIVER

ORDER REPAIRS NOW

from Irma Times 1922

The farmer gazed with heavy frown,
Upon the drill, broken down,
Then hastened to Irma town to buy repairs.
He told McDowell of his woe,
And how much grain he had to sow,
But not a number did he know
Nor seemed to care.

"The part I want," he wisely said,
"It's hollowed out and painted red,
I had the number in my head,
But I forgot."

"It holds the thing-um-bob in place
About an inch from that long brace
That fastens to the big main brace,
And keeps it set."

"Mac," - he sighed and shook his head,
"I don't know what you mean," he said,
"But I have it.

We'll have to search the extra shed,"
From end to end he searched the bins,
And skinned his fingers and his shins,
It made him "cuss".

"That's it," the farmer cried with glee,
"I thought 'twas number thirty-three,
Now what's the price of that to me
Great Jumpin' Frogs

Not forty cents? An awful rate,
For a part that hasn't got no weight.
Oh, well just put on the slate."

McDowell said, "No, repairs are cash,
The same as nails, tea and gas
In 1922."

OIL AND GAS

The oil and gas industry has played a major role in the Irma economy. Today many Irma citizens enjoy employment with Petro Canada in a large operation north of Irma. The derricks of the early times have been replaced by modern pump jacks which in most cases are electrically controlled.

In the Buffalo Coulee area north of Irma there are up to six oil wells and two water wells drilled on a quarter section. The pump jack pumps oil into a satellite which subsequently pumps it into the battery.

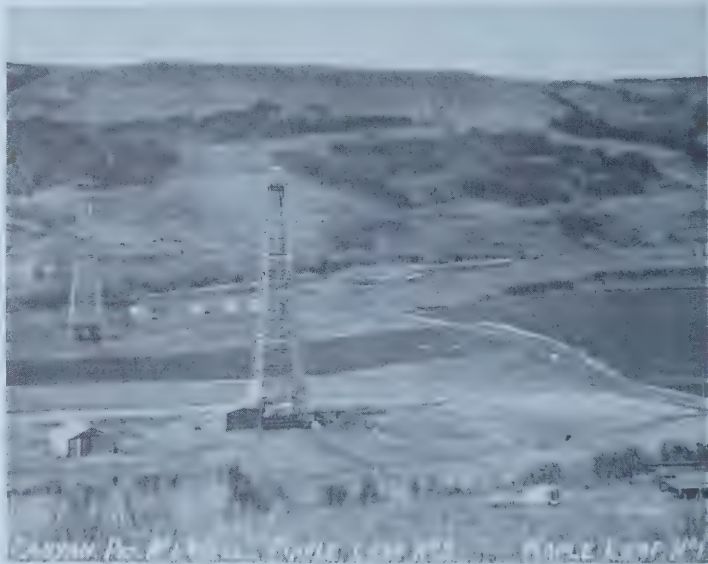
There is also a large number of natural gas wells throughout the Irma area. Merland Exploration and Northwestern Utilities service the gas wells. This gives employment to many Irma families.

MAPLE LEAF CO., STILL WAITING FOR CONTROL HEAD *Sept 19, 1929*

Last week we announced that the Maple Leaf well would be drilled in on the seventeenth or eighteenth. We were assured that everything was in readiness for this important operation. Since then we have been advised that the control head had not arrived and nothing could be done till it was in place. The big valve is being sent from Pittsburg and is expected any day, when we hope this company will be able to add another successful well to the Irma-Wainwright field. The derrick for No. 2 well is practically completed and as soon as the machinery is released from No. 1 well, drilling will be commenced on the new well.

GRATTAN FIRE STILL BURNING

The fire at the Grattan Oil Co's well on Section 4-45-8-w4th, which has been burning fiercely for the past four weeks, is still roaring away with an ever increasing flame which has changed considerable in color and volume since the fire first started. Blasting was heard in the locality of the well the first of the week, but evidently the concussion was not sufficient to extinguish the flame. We understand that the Imperial Oil company who have undertaken to subdue the flames are awaiting the arrival of a chemical substance that has been used very successfully in subduing similar fires in the U. S. That oil is being burned with the gas becomes more evident all the time. At times when a gush of oil appears the flames assume a smoky appearance gradually changing as the gas volume increases. Mr. L. E. Clark of Oklahoma, an experienced gas production man, who visited the well recently expressed the opinion that from five to six million feet of gas were being consumed each day.



IRMA OIL DEVELOPMENT CO. DRILLING

The drillers at the Irma Oil Development Company's well west of Irma are making good progress and are in hopes that they will be able to continue the drilling to a successful completion. The erection of several new derricks are expected within the next few weeks. Among the companies that are planning on starting new operations are the Globe Drilling Co., who have selected a Totation on Section 28-45-7-w4th between the Maple Leaf and B. P. wells. The Palmer interests of Vancouver have announced the early erection of two derricks but have not decided definitely on the location of same. The Dome. British-Wainwright, Reliance, Anglo-Wainwright and some American interests are all reported to have new operations under way shortly.



NUMBER	SHARES	
69	15	

IRMA OIL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

NON-PERSONAL LIABILITY

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, \$150,000

This Certifies that **MARTIN ENGER,** *is the owner of*

-----Fifteen----- *Shares of the Capital Stock of*

IRMA OIL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

transferable only on the books of the Corporation by the holder hereof in person or by Attorney upon surrender of this Certificate properly endorsed.

In Witness Whereof the said Corporation has caused this Certificate to be signed by its duly authorized officers and to be sealed with the Seal of the Corporation

July 23th, 1923

PRESIDENT SECRETARY-TREASURER

SHARES	\$1.00	EACH
--------	--------	------



Petro Canada Battery.

IRMA, ALBERTA, CANADA.

Main line of Canadian National Railways, Grand Trunk Division.

(WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH IRMA)

What's the matter with Irma?

It's Oil Right,

What's the matter with Irma?

For anything you like,

For dairying, ranching, or growing wheat,

Or drilling for oil it can't be beat,

What's the matter with Irma?

It's Oil Right!

What's the matter with Irma?

It's Oil Right!

What's the matter with Irma?

Your fortunes here to strike,

You can drill for gas or drill for oil,

Start up in business, or till the soil,

What's the matter with Irma?

She's Oil Right!

What's the matter with Irma?

It's Oil Right,

What's the matter with Irma?

Oil leases out of sight,

There's just a few left so now's your chance,

To buy what you want before they advance,

What's the matter with Irma?

It's Oil Right!

What's the matter with Irma?

It's Oil Right!

What's the matter with Irma?

It's the best town on the pike,

If you're coming west, it's the place to stop,

To make your pile and come out on top,

It's Oil Right!

What's the matter with Irma?

It's Oil Right!

Nothing's the matter with Irma,

Boost it with all your might.

The climate is great in the summer-time,

All winter the stock on the range do fine,

What's the matter with Irma?

Oil, Oil's Right!

MAY 1941 — Irma Times' Reader



Taken from summary report of the Geological Survey
Dept. of Mines, Ottawa for year 1916. Log of well near
Irma, supplied by Mr. Charles Taylor, of Edmonton.

Feb. 25, 1921

Drift	Feet	Feet
Drift	0	25
Soft gray sandy clay	25	107
Blue sandstone and fossils	107	109
Gray shale bands of blue sandstone, shells	109	134
Dark shales, coal seams	134	140
Dark shales, coal	175	177
Blue sandstone shells	177	192
Brown clay	192	200
Light gray sandstone, carbonaceous	200	210
Light gray sandstone with clay	210	215
Dark gray shale	215	230
Gray shale	230	300
Gray sand	300	342
Gray shale a two foot hard shell	342	377
Gray shale	377	520
Hard shell	520	522
Gray shale	522	552
Hard shell	552	554
Gray shale with hard shells at 645, 750, 850, 960,		1215
Oil at		1345
Lime shell	1345	1353
Gray shell	1353	1405
Hard shell	1405	1410
Gray shale, oil at 1,582	1,410	1,582
Gray shale,	1,582	1,620
Gray Bottom at	1,620	
Gas at	192 feet	
Water at	270 feet	
Water an oil at	300 feet	
Oil at	1,205 and 1,582 feet	
Gas 500,000 cubic per day, 500 lbs. pressure at	1,620 feet	
Belly River formation at	342 feet	
Benton Formation	342 feet to bottom	
Owing to drilling troubles the hoe was abandoned at his dept.		

This report states that the well was abandoned 1,620 feet on account of drilling trouble. This no doubt was very unfortunate for the district and especially for those holding leases in the near vicinity. Most of these have lost the greater part of their enthusiasm in oil, also the leases which have been cancelled. No doubt had this hole been cut down another thousand feet it would have brought in a well that would have made more noise in a day than the famous Fort Norman well does in a month. In this case adjoining leases would have been worth thousands of dollars per acre but they have mostly been released to their parties by the Department of Mines, at 50cts. per acre.

Since this well was abandoned the rig was moved a short distance and another well started on the same section, apparently after the first hole was abandoned

Notice

Notice is hereby given that B.S. Stewart, of Irma, in the Province of Alberta, intends to apply for a license to operate a poolroom at Irma, Alberta. The application has been approved by E. H. Garrison. 1917 B. S. Stewart

Notice is hereby given that Warren B. Peterson of Irma, in the Province of Alberta, intends to apply for a license to operate a pool room at Main Street, Irma.

The application has been approved by E. C. Cox. 1917

Warren Blaine Peterson.

HISTORY OF IRMA POOL ROOM AND BARBER SHOP

The first pool hall and barber shop in Irma was operated by Mr. Art Ambler located where McFarland's store is today. Doc Mathison was the barber for sometime before it burned down in 1911.

Doc Mathison then opened a pool room and barber shop in the Stuart and Peterson building, site of the present Co-op Store. From 1917-1919 a barber shop was located where Irma Medical Supplies is now and was operated by Mr. Bert Stuart.

In 1920 Mr. Jim Hedley started a pool room and a barber shop in the old Co-op Store building on the west side of Main Street just south of the Hedley Block. This had been a clothing store operated by Mr. Harry Kilroth until it closed in 1920. J.C. Shirley was the barber in 1921 according to the Irma Times and sold to James Hedley that year. This building burned in 1930.

In June of 1923 Hedley purchased the McCready building next to Larson's store to move his pool room to that location.

In 1931 Mr. Hedley built the Hedley Block and opened a pool room and barber shop. Although Jim was a barber, he employed Mr. Art Hockett and later Mr. Sam Bugarski.

According to the Irma Times in 1942, Mr. Halitsky of Edmonton replaced Mr. Burrows. In October of 1944 Marvin Runyon took over management of Hedley's Pool Room.

S.H. Barber purchased the business from Marvin Runyon and operated it until his death in 1981. Over the years Paul Girard, Ervin Prosser, John Waywicki, Clarence Stone, Tony Wytchyn, Charlie Dumont, Harry Marron and Charlie Moire were barbers. In 1953 Harold Barber received his license and barbered for years. In 1961 Mr. Barber purchased the theatre building from Dick Keifer and moved his business there. Mr. William Barber worked with his son until his health failed. In 1967 they added Irma Gulf Distributors and Canadian Propane. Kenny and Donna have carried on since Harold's death. There is no barber shop in Irma today. Mr. Jim Borden had a second barber shop in a building owned by Mr. Fred Watkinson near where the Club Cafe stands today, but it only operated for a year or so.

IRMA POOL ROOM

and

BARBER SHOP

SOFT DRINKS TOBACCOS
CIGARS, Etc.

Agent for Snowflake Laundry.

1923
J. A. HEDLEY
PROPRIETOR.

Did you ever get the feeling that the inside of your wallet
is coated with Teflon? Nothing sticks to it.



Statement, Form A (Magistrates' Act)

CANADA
Province of Alberta

Irma

Feb 7 15th 1922

Sir,—

I enclose herewith the sum of \$ *fifteen Dollars* being the amount of the penalty collected on the *Ninth* day of *February* 1922 from *J. A. Tolly* upon the information of *Frank T. Russell R.P.* of *Edmonton* imposed by *R. W. Tolly J.P.* at *Irma* on the *Ninth* day of *February* 1922 on conviction for *For leaving his Pool Room open after 11:30 P.M.* on *Saturday night* contrary to the provisions of *Chase Pool Room Act* Subsection *1* Section *1* of *Edmonton*

I also certify that costs to the amount of \$ *24.35* were imposed upon the defendant as follows:

Here give details of the costs imposed

<i>Fine</i>	<i>15.00</i>
<i>Information & court</i>	<i>1.00</i>
<i>Hearing cost</i>	<i>2.00</i>
<i>Sum miles cost</i>	<i>5.65</i>
<i>Police</i>	<i>24.35</i>

Your obedient servant,

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
EDMONTON.

A. W. Tolly J.P.

PAINTING 1929

Let R. T. Meakins give you a price on your work.

GOOD WORKMANSHIP,
BEST MATERIALS
LOW PRICES

Specialty — School Work,
and Business Places

ROBT. T. MEAKINS
Grattan Farm Jarrow

Shipping Hogs

Jarrow, Wed., January 8
Hogs Bought Any Day at Irma
Hogs to be in yards at Jar-
row not later than 2 o'clock
day of shipment.

Foxwell & Johnson
PHONE 13 1936

Strike One ! MAY 7, 1920

The burning question is "whether Irma is going to have a base ball team this year, or not." On Monday evening May 10th there will be a meeting to re-organize in E. T. McDowell's office. We will know the dead sports as the live ones will all be at this meeting. Enough said.



Section house for C.N.R. workers.



Moving the office at the Pool elevator.

BUSINESS IS GOOD

The farmer sells a load of wheat,
and all the world grows fair and sweet;
He hums a couple of cheerful tunes,
and pays the grocer for his prunes.
The grocer, who has had the blues,
now buys his wife a pair of shoes.
That ten the shoe-man thinks God sent,
and runs and pays it on the rent.
Next day the rent man hands the bill
to Dr. Eakins for a pill,
And Doctor Eakins tells his frau
that business is improving now,
And cheers her up and says: "My dear,
you've been quite feeble for a year
I'm thinking you should take a rest;
you'd better take a trip out West."
And in a couple of days the frau
is on the farm of Joshua Howe.
She pays her board to Farmer Howe
who takes the bill and says, "I swow!
Here's something that just can't be beat—
this bill's the one I got for wheat."
He hums a couple of cheerful tunes,
and goes and buys a lot more prunes.
—Selected

New Butcher.



C.P. Larson bought out the butcher shop formerly owned by W.B. Peterson. Mr. Larson has moved his family to Irma and intends to devote all his time to the butcher business. He has a good supply of fresh and salt meats on hand and will have shipments of fish once a week till the weather turns cold enough to assure shipping by freight.

Mr. Hatch, the Butcher
1919.



Steve's Shoe Shop at Irma Steve and friend, John and Olga.

Coal

MARCUS LUMP COAL, Special Price to clear .. per ton \$6.75

BARB WIRE

Two- and Four- Point Barb Wire in stock

UNITED GRAIN GROWERS LTD.

L. A. SCHON, Agent Phone: Office 28: Residence 24: IRMA

WAIT FOR THE —

RAWLEIGH MAN

If you need anything before he calls, see him at Irma any Saturday.

NOW IS THE TIME TO KILL THE FLIES —

Rawleigh's Fly Fluid is fully guaranteed to Kill them Quickly.

O. A. Lovig, Irma, Alta.

**Do Not Wait Until
the Busy Season**



**HAVE YOUR HARNESS AND SHOES
REPAIRED NOW AND SAVE MONEY**

Come and see our new Harness Supplies and Adam's Best Horse Collars at Reasonable Prices

STEVE HLYNKA

IRMA 1938 —:— ALBERTA

A Stitch In Time

Bring
Your
Harness
To

G. M. Manners

Irma

Harness Repaired Neatly and
Promptly Prices Moderate

Next to Municipal Office
1915

Shoe & Harness Repair Shoe

- I have just opened a New Shoe and Harness Repair Shop and would be pleased to have anyone requiring work done to call.

All Work Guaranteed
and Prices Right.

Pon Jame

Irma, 1922 Alberta

**Eat Watkinson's Delicious
Home Made Candies**
They are Different — Con-
tain no Glucose or In-
jurious Ingredients.

Feb 13, 1931

MRS BERT LONG

Teacher of Piano

Toronto Conservatory Exam, or
any music taught to suit the
individual taste.

IRMA Hand Laundry

MAIN STREET
Opposite Old School..

I SOLICIT
YOUR WASHING
My
PRICES ARE RIGHT.

1922
Wong Yick, Prop.

Bread is the Best Food

EAT MORE OF IT!

White Bread,
Milk Bread,
Raisin Bread,
Whole Wheat Bread
"Fresh Every Day"

Nu-Bakery

R. H. Stone, Prop.

Irma, - - - - - Alberta

Irma Bakery

PASTRY OF ALL KINDS

ICE CREAM

ICE CREAM, CONFECTIONERY,
TOBACCO, SOFT DRINKS
FRESH FRUIT IN SEASON
PRIVATE BOOTHS, AFTERNOON TEAS

James Pond - Prop.

Irma, - - - - - Alberta.

Club Cafe



GOOD QUALITY MEALS - QUICK LUNCHES

Woodland Ice Cream in bulk and also a good
Assortment of Ice Cream Bricks

A large variety of Ice Cold Drinks 5c per bottle

Canada Dry and Coca Cola 10c per Bottle. Bottles 3c extra, re-
funded when bottles returned.

UP-TO-DATE ELECTRIC REFRIGERATION SERVICE !

Real Estate

FARM LOANS
GENERAL INSURANCE
STOCKS & BONDS

Licensed Grain Buyer

AUDITOR
COMMISSIONER
VALUATOR

Conveyancing

W. Masson

IRMA ALBERTA

June 20 1925

G. A. Tripp, local agent for the
J. I. Case Co. has just unloaded
three tractors, which are being de-
livered to J. C. McKay, E. C. Case,
and C. T. Hill & Son. This shows
up well, and brings to mind the ra-
pid development that is taking
place in the Irma district.

NOTICE

Orders for gopher poison will be
received by the Secretary of the U.
F.A. Cash to accompany order and
to be filled according to the date of
filing

C.G. Hockin, Sec-Treas.

NOTICE

TENDERS will be received up to
March 16th for five cords green and
one cord of dry wood (cord measuring
8 ft. x 4 ft. x 4 ft.) cut in 16 in.
lengths and delivered at Irma Rural
High School by 15th April, 1928.

FRED B. CHALLIES,
Secretary.

IRMA GARAGE

NEVER-KNOCK GASOLINE
ETHYL GASOLINE
PENZOIL MOTOR OIL
AUTOLENE OIL
MOTOR RE-CONDITIONING
WELDING
DE LAVAL PARTS

Call in and look over the New De
Laval Cream Separator.

OPEN TO YOUR SERVICE

J. OSTAD, Proprietor

Your Business Is Appreciated



On Main Street in 1942, in front of the Telephone Office: (?), A. Carter, R. McFarland Jr., (?), Pryce Jones, C. Milne, F. Maguire, J. Hines, Percy Jones, O. Lovig, R. McFarland Sr., Boys in front are Jackie Hines and Malcolm Frickleton.

IRMA — A HOME TOWN

We live in Irma because we believe in it. We believe in it because it is a good town, regardless of its few defects, and its people are the peers of those to be found anywhere.

If you believe in your home town you will like, and if you like it no effort towards its improvement will be too great for you.

Again we ask you to have faith in your own powers; to also have faith in your own town.

When you feel like criticizing it, check the thought before spoken. You can always find something good to say instead, and even then the half of the truth will never be told.

It is a good town now, but faith, loyalty and united action will make it a better one.

Our faith in this town, is simply faith in you, because the town is a collection of you's.

Surely your faith is not less than ours.

Let us unite—let us act—for a more cohesive community.

It is your home—and ours.

Feb 24, 1922

When planting your garden think of the following - Plant five rows of peas: Preparedness, Promptness, Perseverance, Politeness, and Prayer. Next to them plant three rows of squash: Squash gossip, squash criticism, and squash indifference. Then plant three rows of lettuce: Let us be loyal, let us love one another, let us be truthful. No garden would be complete without turnips: Turn up for meetings, turn up with a smile, turn up with a new idea, and turn up with real dedication.

Old-Timers of Irma, taken at Irma's 50th Anniversary celebrations in August, 1962. Back Row: Torilf Larson, Roscoe Fyke, Tom Knowles, Chester Brown, Sherman Prosser, Johan Ruste, Bill Matthews, Oscar Steffenson, Norman Fluevog, Haakon Larson, Archie Fleming, Raymond Stinson, Roy Burton. Third Row: Erle Prior, Willie Allen, Arlie (Prosser) Patterson, Mabel (Santee) Frye, Bill Stewart, Jim Dongaue, George Rubenok, Elmer Erickson, Jim Wakefield, Charlie Pyle, Arnold Christenson, Klein Seledt. Second Row: Martin Enger, Georgina (Fenton) Enger, Inez (Fenton) Dunlop, Nanna (Fluevog) Nilson, Elsie (Whitely) Robertson, Eileen (Meekins) Prior, Gladys (Dawson) Rubenok, Fred Hill, Sophie (Lovig) Ostad, Bessie (Steele) Wakefield, Hans Christensen. Between people: Mrs. (Russell) Dan Larson, Irene (Hill) Hardy, Irene (Love) Hill. Front Row: Bill Lockhart, Frank Allen, Jarrow, Alice (Pedigrew) Fischer, Clarence Renwick, Bob Dawson, Chris Burton, Alf Larson, Wilmer Rae, Layton Barss.



IRMA TELEPHONE SYSTEM

The first long distance service began in Irma in 1914 when Mr. H.W. Love installed two sets in the back of the old Co-op store. One set had a line to Edmonton and the other connected local and rural lines. Mr. Love acted as go-between repeating messages. Later he contrived a device between sets whereby callers could talk direct.

The first rural telephone line in the Irma district was set up in 1911 when six farmers of the Coal Springs district used barbed wire fences to communicate between homes. The following year regulation poles and wire were installed and became line four.

In 1914 line two was set up in the Strawberry Plains district using wire fences and coming from Irma. Line one was formed in 1917 extending into the Orbindale district north of town to service fifteen families. Line three was built in 1916 extending east and north to give service to Steeles, Burtons, Greens, etc.

In 1923 Alberta Government Telephones installed lines five, six, seven and eight. Party lines upgraded rural life considerably. With up to twenty subscribers on a line, most members of the community were informed on current events and gossip.

In 1934 the farmers took over from A.G.T. and each line formed a mutual Company except lines five, six, and seven formed the North Irma Mutual Company.

The first switchboard serving town phones and four rural lines was installed in Bassett's Drug Store in 1918. Miss Lila Maguire was the first operator, followed by Miss Lily Simmons and then Inez Fenton. The switchboard was operated from eight in the morning until eight p.m. Later it was moved across the street where a twenty-four hour service was introduced in 1937. In 1960 a second switchboard was installed to handle the increased number of subscribers.

Brenda Hewett was operator for over thirty years and gave commendable service. Mrs. W. Masson and Mrs. Ella McRoberts were faithful operators.

In 1966 the Dial System came into operation and switchboards were eliminated as well as were miles of overhead wires which were replaced by cables. In the seventies the rural lines were buried and direct dialing came into existence.



Mary Elliott and Mrs. Armstrong a former Irma Post Mistress in 1928.



Palma Masson at the switchboard.

NORTHWESTERN UTILITIES IN IRMA

Natural gas service came to the Irma area in 1951 when Northwestern Utilities Ltd. extended the main gas line to this area. Len Loades was the first agent at Irma. After Len's death in 1957, Norman Blades transferred from Camrose to become local foreman and agent. Ross Brower became assistant local agent.

In the spring of 1960 the agency was moved to Viking to be more central and Ross Brower became local agent. July 1965 Norman Blades was promoted to foreman of the district mains, Edmonton and Len Liddell replaced him in Irma. Eric Eisner followed as local agent and was here for a number of years. Vic Johnson was next to serve until his retirement in 1984 when Jim Christensen who has had many years service at Irma became local agent.

Northwestern Utilities looks after natural gas service as far south as Oyen and surrounding towns. It services as far north as Grand Centre which includes the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve, as far east as Lloydminster and as far west as Viking.

September 14 Is The Day We Will Be "Cookin' With Gas"

The date that appears on this week's issue of the Times is the day for which all Irma residents have been longing. Friday, Sept. 14 is the date set for natural gas to be turned on in our progressive little village.

The past summer has been cold and many folk who already had their stores, etc., converted for the use of gas have suffered some inconvenience and discomfort. But this will all be forgotten now and old man winter won't look half so formidable this year.



Northwest Utilities Camp, Irma.

POST OFFICE AND MAIL CARRIERS

The first mail to Irma came from Mannville when a post office was established in a portion of the Stuart and Peterson building. The first post office building was erected in 1909 on the corner of Fiftieth Street and Fiftieth Avenue. Mr. J.H.S. Armstrong was in charge and lived above the post office until his death. Mrs. Armstrong then became postmistress for a number of years.

In 1923 Mrs. Ina Knudson took over and with the help of Miss Clarke, and later Arthur and Aletha Knudson served faithfully for thirty-three years. Rural sub-post offices were housed at Tom Coultman's, Clark Manor and Flemings (Zoldovara). When the post office burnt in 1931 Mrs. Knudson set up a temporary one in the Stuart and Peterson building.

With the building of the Hedley Block, the Post Office was moved to the west side of the street where Lorraine Hansen's beauty salon is today. Arthur succeeded his mother when she retired and with the help of his wife Marian and Mrs. Helen Whidden served as postmaster until his retirement in 1961.

Mr. Charlie Milne took over and with his wife Annie served several years. Other helpers were Helen Whidden, Stella Glasgow, Dorothy Reed, Nannie Nilson and Carol Owen.

A new post office was built on the east side of Main Street and opened May 16, 1963. After Charlie's retirement, Annie was postmistress until Mrs. Jackie Whelan took over in 1972. After Jackie, it was operated by Walter Littlewood with helpers Judy Lemieux,

Dorothy Reed and Joyce Larson. Walter transferred from Irma and Judy operates the post office at this time with Margaret Archibald as the new staff member.

Roy Shotts was instrumental in having rural mail delivery established in 1930. Charlie Pyle delivered the mail on routes one and two north. Charlie Coffin drove the south route. Other mailmen over the years were Jim Carter, Arthur Knudson, Nay Fuder, Charlie Milne, Herbert Larson, Art Larson and Bill Dootson.

Today there is only one rural mail route. Marlus Larson delivers the mail to north of Irma.



Mr. Coffin mail delivery.

Some people think that the reason the postal rates are rising is that the Post Office is storing the mail instead of delivering it.



P. Prosser and L. Kellar mailboxes in winter of 1970-71. A. Dootson filling boxes.

CANADIAN POSTAGE RATES - LETTER RATE

July 1, 1867	5¢ per first half ounce
April 1, 1868	3¢
April 1, 1869	3¢ per ounce
January 1, 1899	2¢
April 15, 1915	3¢ - 1¢ War Tax was added
July 1, 1926	2¢ - War Tax deleted
July 1, 1931	3¢ - War Tax reimposed
April 1, 1943	4¢ - Added 1¢ War Tax
July 1, 1951	4¢ - War Tax incorporated
April 1, 1954	5¢
November 1, 1968	6¢
January 1, 1972	8¢
September 1, 1976	10¢
April 1, 1978	14¢
April 1, 1979	17¢
December 29, 1981	"A" stamp - 30¢
February 10, 1983	32¢
On July 1, 1979	Metric weight in grams was introduced

CANADIAN AIR MAIL RATES

1928 - 5¢ for first ounce and 10¢ for each additional ounce
 July 1, 1931 - 6¢ for first ounce and 10¢ for each additional ounce
 October 23, 1931 - 6¢ for first ounce and 5¢ for each additional ounce
 April 1, 1943 - 7¢ for first ounce and 5¢ for each additional ounce
 July 1, 1951 - War Tax incorporated in rate
 November 1, 1968 - Air Mail rate abolished - all mail goes by air.

Did you ever wonder why they put those heavy doors on the Post Office? It's just another way for the Government to tax your strength.

FARMER'S LETTER TO SANTA

Dear Santa:

We know we're asking for quite a lot, but there are so many things we haven't got,
 So we thought we'd ask you to try and find these gifts for us that we have in mind.

A few less 'hoppers and a bit less rain, when harvest time rolls around again.

We're tired of hail and wind storms here, so you needn't bother with them this year.

Give us higher prices for eggs and cream, and lower prices for gasoline.

Give us plenty of markets for all our grain, and a good cattle market once again.

This is our list and at the top, what we really want is a bumper crop,

And just one more thing ere your patience cracks, give us strength to master the income tax.

Santa laughed and put the letter away, then stepped outside to look at the sleigh,

And right on top by the dolls, pretty charmers, he placed a box of 'Good Luck' for Alberta Farmers.

... Author Unknown.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

A copy of the Jarrow Journal of February 15, 1912 in the possession of Buster Lingley is probably an early edition of the first newspaper of this district and evidently began publication in 1911. It contained several pages of news and advertisements.

The Roseberry Tattler, a publication of 1912 and 1913, was written by hand and read at meetings of the Excelsior Literary Society at Roseberry School. The editor was Mrs. Watkinson with Miss Prudence Smith the associate editor. Local ladies were reporters.

The Irma Times began in 1916 with Mr. Harry Love as the founder and editor, and the paper was published by Mr. H.G. Thunell who published the Viking News. For several years the Battle River Municipal District subscribed to the Times for each resident ratepayer and for each local boy serving in the Armed Services. When Mr. Love moved to Edmonton in 1934 Mr. Thunell took over the editing with Mr. E.W. Carter acting as local editor. Each community had an active reporter who sent in news to the paper as well. Mrs. Harry Riley succeeded Mr. Carter in 1946, and carried on until the fall of 1966, when Mrs. W. Dootson took over for a year. Mrs. Ella McRoberts took over the reins until she retired in 1969. In September of 1969, after fifty-two years as "Our Paper" the Irma Times became part of the Viking News. Over the following years the following have continued the usual good and faithful service to bring local news to our community: Shirley Lovig, Chris Russell, Jim Jackson, Adelaide Dootson and Lynda Jones.

Irma Times Not First Local Paper

We have just made a rather surprising and a very interesting discovery. The Irma Times was not the first local newspaper in these parts. We wonder how many remember "The Roseberry Tattler," a plythe and breezy publication written by hand and read at the meetings of the Excelsior Literary Society at Roseberry school way back in 1912-1913.

Who was responsible for this cheery and informative periodical? Editor—Mrs. Fred Watkinson. Associate Editor—Miss Prudence Smith. Social Reporters—Misses Mary Elliott, Marjorie Steele, Elsie New and Misses V. Swalles, A. Liddle.

Mrs. Watkinson who now lives in Irma has kindly loaned The Times a bulky bundle of these 37 year old newspapers and it is our purpose for the next few weeks to quote a few excerpts from these time-honored pages.

In the fall of 1912 the Editor-in-Chief wrote: "Our troubles seem to be deposited in layers like geological strata. Those underneath our covered by the one on the top. But remove that and up comes another, so, the election of councillors being over we find ourselves confronted by that agonizing problem, Christmas presents."

It seems an Agricultural train visited Irma on November 22 of that year and "a large number of farmers with their aunts and their cousins, their sweethearts and their wives took advantage of the occasion to hear the various lectures and view the stock exhibited. A lot of useful information was given re the housing, feeding and fencing of various kinds of stock. But farm buildings and woven wire fencing costs money and none of the lecturers gave the poor homesteaders advice as to where he could find the needed dollars."

An item of interest to W.I. members reads as follows: "The Irma Branch of the W.I. was organized of which Mrs. J. G. Clark was elected president. We understand

they will meet at Irma on the first Saturday of every month, and we hope that all ladies who have not already joined will turn up on Saturday, January 13, 1913 and show the mere men how to organize."

Well, it's now 1949 and the W.I. still is going strong. Those gals must have really organized.

Days Gone By

From the Roseberry Tattler

Mrs. Watkinson recalled many memories of the pioneer days as we leafed through the yellowed pages of the Tattler. Her blue eyes twinkled at the memory of dances held at Roseberry. It was not permissible to move the school desks so they tripped the light fantastic up the aisles between, to the music of a tin whistle played by Mr. Jack Agar. There was a light-heartedness about those early days when the country was new and "Next Year" with all its promises seemed to be just around the corner.

The Excelsior Literary Society had some fine programs. This is how things were lined up at the beginning of 1913, Jan. 1. A Night with Burns. Jan. 16 Debate—open. Jan. 29—Shakespeare. Feb. 12—School and Miscellaneous. Feb. 26—Debate, Monarchy vs. Republic. March 12—Open. March 26—Debate. They had ads in the Tattler too:

WANTED—Boy, partly outside and partly behind hte counter. Apply 536 Main St. Irma.

WIDOW in comfortable circumstances wishes to marry two sons. Box 782, Jarrow.

Annual Sale on "Don't go elsewhere to be cheated, come in here." Co-op Store, Irma. Unquote. Its the Co-op of 1913 the above refers to.

LOST—near Strawberry Plains an umbrella belonging to a gentleman with a bent rib. Reward. Apply Box 36, Clark Manor

WANTED—an airy bedroom for a gentleman 22 ft. long and 11 ft. wide. Apply Tripp's Livery Barn. Irma

Mr. Brown, furrier, begs to announce that he will make cloaks, capes, etc., for ladies out of their own skin

At The Old 1913 Trick Again

Last Saturday night some vandels paid a visit to the old Hill ranch recently purchased by Mr. Freeman and either stole or dropped \$250 dollars worth of tools in the well. Mr. W. T. Barber had just finished a new 65 foot well and had packed up ready to move to the next place but in the morning he found the bucket and all small parts missing. Tracks indicate that they had been dropped in the well, which is about half full of water. The police was notified, and they tracked some horses but so far we have not heard of any arrests.

Feeling is very strong in the district and several of the settlers are very anxious that the guilty parties are brought to justice.

Local News.

1920
Minton Ross left on Wednesday for some point in Ontario.

Mr. J. Hammond and family spent a few days in Irma last week.

Steamship tickets may now be had to Europe and all information regarding rates and sailings may be obtained from local G.T.P. agent.

Mrs. J. W. Grayden left last Friday for Grand Valley, Ont. where she will visit her mother.

J. J. Newburry has purchased the northeast quarter of section 30-15-8 and has moved his family up from Wainwright. We are glad to welcome them to our district.

Irma District

Irma District is one of the best mixed farming districts in the West. Good soil, good water, good grass, good railroad facilities and good people. Boost for your district. Plenty of good farms waiting for development.

110 miles east of Edmonton
200 miles west of Saskatoon

IRMA TIMES

AN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY NEWSPAPER CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT
JARROW, KINSELLA, ORBINDALE, ZOLDOVARA, FABYAN, CLARK MANOR AND IRMA DISTRICT

Vol. III. No. 10

Irma, Alberta, Canada, Friday, April 18th 1919

21.50 Per Year

Irma Times

H. G. THUNELL, Publisher

F. W. WATKINSON, Editor

Published Every Friday Noon at Irma, Alberta

Friday, May 25th, 1917

Main Street

— 1929

Mr. S. Johnson was in Edmonton on business Wednesday.

Another disastrous fire occurred in Edgerton on Thursday.

The Crescent Hill School Christmas Concert will be held on Monday, December 23rd at eight o'clock.

Five per cent Penalty is added to all Taxes remaining unpaid after December 16th.

Irma Ladies Aid will meet at the home of Mrs. Schonert next Thursday afternoon.

Miss T. Morse left Tuesday for her home in Michigan after spending a month with her parents in the Roseberry district.

Most of the members of Irma Masonic Lodge attended meeting at Wainwright Monday afternoon and evening.

Sunday Mr. Geeson lost the crank for his Chevrolet car somewhere in Irma, Ross, Alma Mater or Roseberry. Anyone finding it will confer a favor by returning it to the Manager. The weather during the past week has been very mild and cars are running in all parts of the district. Thursday afternoon it looked as if a storm was forming.

Mr. M. A. Murray, teller in the local branch of the Bank of Montreal has been promoted and transferred to the Edmonton branch of the Bank. Mr. E. Mulholland, of Lethbridge, has

Still Going. 1918

Monday afternoon some Farmers draying coal from Fabyan left one load about half way up the east hill at the Battle River while the doubled up their teams on the other load. In blocking the wagon a pole was used to block the wheels. This was left across the road at the side and soon an auto came along and in passing over the pole knocked it out of place. The wagon and coal landed at the foot of the bank after taking several turns on the way down.

W.C. Brooks returned to Irma Sunday night with his bride. Mr. Brooks was married on Aug. 7th at North Bay, Ont. Miss Mary Biggs is the happy bride and they are living on the farm Mr. Brooks bought from Geo. Graham.

W. Masson, manager of the local branch of the Merchants Bank, attended the conference of managers of the Alberta and B.C. branches at the Macdonald hotel, Edmonton, last Wednesday evening. The General manager and several of the directors were present. 1919

MR. H. E. SPENCER HERE ON
NOVEMBER 21st. Nov 21/21

Mr. H. E. Spencer, the Progressive candidate for the Battle River Federal Riding, will hold a meeting at Irma Monday evening, Nov. 21st.

Mr. Farquharson, President of the Battle River U. F. A. Political Ass'n, will be at Roseberry on the evening of the 14th, and at Jarrow on the 15th of November.

NEW POSTMASTER

After several months waiting Mrs. I. Knudson has received the appointment of Postmaster in Irma in place of Mrs. E. J. Armstrong who sent in her resignation to the Department early last fall. Mrs. Knudson is an old resident of the district and her appointment will be appreciated by most of the patrons of the office. We understand that Miss Clark who has been assistant with Mrs. Armstrong and who has so ably handled the office since she left, will continue with Mrs. Knudson in the office. 1923

BURGLAR GETS AWAY WITH \$100

— 1937

About 4 a.m. on October 11th, a burglar entered Mr. M. K. McLeod's house through a front window and searched through a chest of drawers until he found a purse containing \$100 which Mrs. McLeod had placed there for an emergency. He then left by way of the front door and in so doing awakened Mrs. McLeod. Mr. McLeod rushed outside but did not get close enough to obtain a description. He immediately notified R. L. Simmermon, night watchman, who phoned to Wainwright for Corp. Collett. Several clues were followed up but without any results. The same night Mr. John Ostad's car was taken from his back yard and later found about three miles from town on the Coal Springs road. The car was not damaged.

August 31, 1956 - Water has been turned on in some houses in Irma and will soon be flowing freely in most homes. The Old Town Pump on the corner of Main Street may feel a little lonely but everyone else will find nothing but benefit. There are quite a few used water pails for sale, too.

*Tom Woods' well drilling rig, dug a well for Angus MacMillan.
John Baptist Worth.*



Boring a new well with horse providing the power.

A hangover is something that happens to a head that wasn't used the night before.

Size isn't everything. The whale is endangered but the ant is doing fine.



Men adjusting cribbing in new well.

Mr. Wood Has Lost a Pump?

1918

Wednesday of last week Mr. T. C. Wood came from Kingsella to his homestead north east of Irma to get a pump out of the well to use at his farm at Kinsella but when he arrived at the place he found some one had removed the pump and taken it away. After making some enquiries among the neighbors he notified the police at Viking and the next day they located the pump north west of Irma, and apprehended Mr. Roy Merry who has been charged with taking the pump. The hearing has been set for Thursday, December 20th at Kinsella and Mr. Merry was liberated on \$500 bail. Mr. Wood undertook to recover the pump last Saturday but was ordered off the place.

IRMA DRILLER Nov 16, 1923 HAVING TROUBLE

Contractor R. Merry who is drilling the well for the C. N. R. at the Irma Stock Yards is having his own troubles these days trying to get through to the water level with a small outfit. Mr. Merry drilled through twenty-five feet of solid sandstone which gave him considerable trouble and at present he has struck another streak of the same formation at 110 feet. Mr. Merry has drilled in all parts of the Irma district including several wells in and around Irma but has never had anything like the hard drilling he has encountered in this well. Apparently the same sandstone struck in this well has only been sand in most of the other wells, as on the legal subdivision just west of the one on which Irma Oil Development company have started operations they passed through some twenty feet of pure sand which apparently at one time may have been in the form of stone.



Well cribbing waiting to be lowered.



The A. Smart farm (now Bob Dempsey farm) in the early 1930's.



Ted Stockton's drilling machine and Fordson tractor in 1938.



Irma's large fire truck.

Fighting the fire at Irma Medical Supplies August 8, 1984.

Electric Light Plant changed hands Monday night. It looked as if the Irma merchants would be deprived of electric light at the end of the month. Mr. C. Christenson had notified some of the patrons that he intended to give up the Delco plant at the end of the month and if they wanted light after then they would have to get someone to buy the plant and run it. After considerable discussion as to the best plan for arranging to continue the service it was arranged that Mr. C. Latimer take over the plant, and the patrons arrange for extra wiring, needed to extend the service. This will be the third change since the plant was installed. Feb 3, 1922



IRMA, Alta.,

June 7 1925

TO IRMA MOTORS DR.

No. of Meter

Meter Reading { Present
Past 1042

Flat - - \$.....

Meter Rent \$.....

..... K.W.H. at 25 cents - - \$.....

Meter Monthly Minimum \$2.50 \$.....

Total \$.....

This account is payable on or before the 5th of the month.

After 5th of the month a 10 per cent. will be added.

Present this when paying your account.

Current will be on for Household Appliances Monday & Tuesday of each week from 8 to 11 a.m. and Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m.

All Cheques payable to the

IRMA MOTORS



Becketts came from England on this ship.



Don Nicoll taking cream to town 1919 or 1920.



Robert C., Alice, and Allan Johnson on the boat from England.



Kellars moving to Wainwright in fall of 1929.

East Bound No. 2 due 12.24pm
 West Bound due 5.56 pm
 Local freight from East,
 Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.
 From West: Monday, Wed-
 nesday, and Friday. 1917



Mrs. Roy Shotts - 1920 winter.



The Bennet wagon of 1934.



The E.J. Jones family going for an outing with driving team and two seater democrat. Note the ladies' hats.



Twelve horse team driven by Rick and Louie Larson on first Richardson road grader in the Albert District. The first four miles of road was built from Ronnie Larson's north in 1925.



Phil Holt, Barry Holt, (?), Isa Millar, Dorothy Whidden, Harold Whidden, Jimmie Millar and Gordon Whidden.



The Elliotts off to church on Sunday.



Mrs. Barss and Mrs. Fred Pyle.

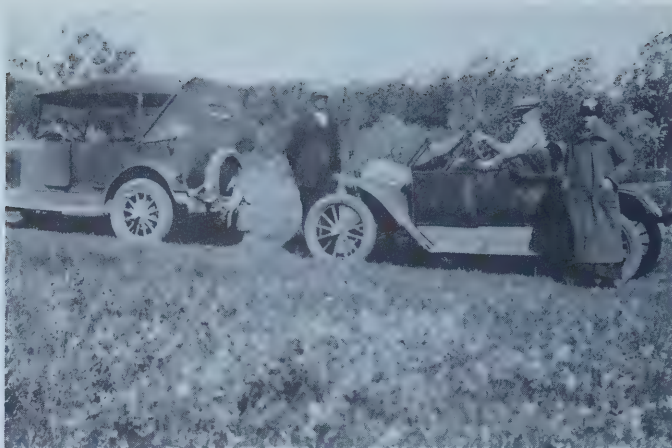


A modern cutter built by John and Harley Barss.

The plasterers have finished work on the new bank building and the carpenters and painters will be through shortly. 1918



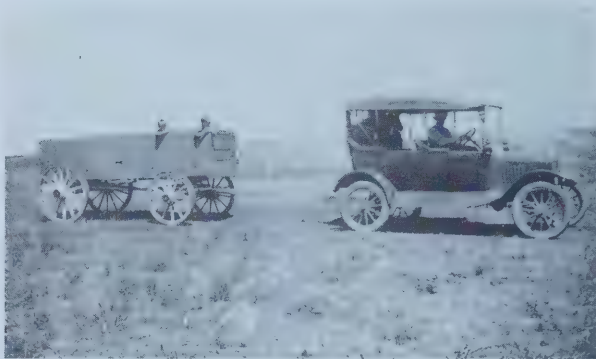
Jarrow, 1927, Gail Gustafson with Hannah and Mabel. Model T. Ford, 1910.



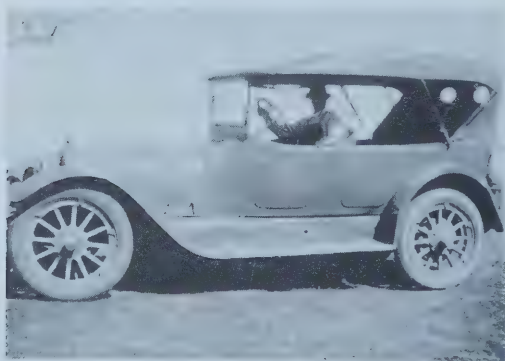
Hans Christenson standing, Arnold in car and Mrs. C. Christenson.



Joshua and Bill Holt, 1936.



Farm transportation, 1923.



Wellington Prosser with McLaughlen touring car, 1909.



Mrs. Albert Taylor and family, Winnie, Gerald, George, with boy scout hat, Jack and Allan. The car is a 1913 Teedhope. The picture is taken in front of the first house on the Albert Taylor farm.

Life Is What You Make It

We must not hope to be mowers,
And to gather the ripe gold ears,
Unless we have first been sowers
And watered the furrows with tears.

It is not just as we take it,
This mystical world of ours,
Life's field will yield as we make it
A harvest of thorns or of flowers.



Bill McCartney taking a break, 1929 Chev.



Robert C. Johnson grading the road.



Layton Barss in 1929.



Bert and Humphrey Armitage leaving for Edmonton with a load of lambs.



Earl Tomlinson and load of wheat with horse-drawn grain tank, fall of 1928.

From Edmonton To Irma in Car.

Tuesday the Henderson brothers returned from Edmonton by motor. It is seldom that this trip can be made in January but they report the roads in good shape till they struck Kinsella where the snow had drifted considerable. They left Edmonton about 9 a.m. and arrived in Viking about 4 p.m. 17 17

The only way to solve the traffic problems of the country is to pass a law that only paid-for cars are allowed to use the highways. That would make traffic so scarce we could use the boulevards for children's playgrounds.

Some people are like house plants ... they suffer from too much attention.

November 8, 1929 - Eight carloads of cattle, one of horses, were shipped from Irma. Around eighty thousand bushels of grain are waiting shipment.

May 29, 1931 - The Ladies' Aid held a garden party at the home of Martin Knudson on the afternoon and evening of May 27. Ball games and sports of all kinds were enjoyed. A first class supper (cold chicken, salads, sandwiches, pie, angel cake, homemade ice cream provided by Mr. and Mrs. Locke, tea and coffee) for only twenty-five cents. The proceeds realized was thirty-seven dollars and thirty-five cents.

June 24, 1932 - Over one million bushels of grain has been shipped from last years crop. Irma stood third on the C.N.R. list of stations north of Red Deer.

June 8, 1934 - Mr. L. Guiltner, Irma drayman, has made use of his spare time and his inventive talents to construct a crow trap that is nothing but grief for Mr. Crow. This trap is very easily constructed with a few poles and some chicken wire.



Feb 24, 1922 Freight Train Jumps Track

Sixteen cars of a fast freight travelling east were derailed at the West switch near Irma Wednesday morning about three o'clock. The cars were piled up in the ditch and were badly damaged. There were twelve cars of grain and four of coal that jumped the track. It is supposed that something happened to the "frog" at the switch causing the derailment. No one was reported hurt. All traffic was delayed for about five hours before the wrecking crews from Wainwright and Edmonton could clear the track. This was one of the worst spills that has occurred along this line for some time.

The trains are now compelled to use the elevator track in order to get around the wreckage but it is expected the main track will be cleared by Saturday.

Trestle east of Irma in 1949.



Train wreck at Irma in 1958.

TRAVEL BY BUS!

— for —

Comfort, Courtesy, Economy

Leave Irma daily, going east, 8.10 p.m.

Leave Irma daily, going west, 8.15 a.m.

WEEK-END EXCURSIONS ON ALL LINES

Sunburst Motor Coaches Ltd.

Rick and Jean and a snowmobile in 1940.



Near Wainwright, Alberta, making highway. Tom Holt with teams on far right, 1929.



Heading toward Irma on Mannville road just north of Roger Larson in March, 1974.



Hail storm at Ernie Owens, July 21st, 1976.

More people are run down by gossip than automobiles.

Some people are like blisters, they show up when the work is done.

CHAPTER 3

MINISTERING TO BODY AND SOUL



NURSING HELP

In the "teens" and early 1920's Mrs. Curfman operated a cottage hospital for any cases the doctor thought needed extra care and maternity cases. This cottage was located in the southwest corner of Irma and is now occupied by one of the teachers.

Later, Mrs. George Higginson, a registered nurse, opened her home, next to the United Church manse, for nursing services.

Mrs. Adams, Joy King's mother, also a registered nurse, would help out in time of need.

In 1959 the Irma Municipal Hospital District No. 55 became non-operating. Now, our medical needs are taken care of by the doctors at Wainwright, Viking or Hardisty. Hospitals are located in these centers, also.

IRMA'S DOCTORS - 1909 TO 1942

The life of a country doctor was not an easy one. His practice covered a large sparsely settled area. Dr. A. Murray McGregor, our first doctor, was one of these. He came to Irma in 1909. He stayed at Henderson's Hotel and had his office there until his house was built west of Main Street on what is now 50th Avenue. Besides his office calls he travelled many miles to take care of his patients in their homes. This travelling was time consuming as he had to use a horse and buggy in the summer and a cutter (light sleigh) in the winter. The trail wound across the prairies, dodging sloughs and bluffs. Sometimes they were snowblocked in the winter.

In 1910 he married Frinda Young.

During the time he served the Irma area there were two serious epidemics - Scarlet Fever and the 1918 'Flu. During the 1918 'flu epidemic Dr. McGregor, with the assistance of Miss Bessie Tillapaugh, R.N., (later Mrs. Art Long) and a group of volunteer workers gave valiant service to the ill, using the present United Church as a temporary hospital. Five deaths occurred.

In the mid-teens Dr. McGregor, having sold his first house to J. Tate, built a larger house, (the present home of Harold Gulbraa), where he and Frinda and daughter Nina lived until he moved from Irma in 1920. He gave up his practice in the summer of 1920 due to poor health. A call was then made for a new doctor.

Dr. Stirling McGregor - no relation to Murray McGregor - was our next doctor. To keep things straight he was called "Young Dr. McGregor" and Murray was referred to as "Old Dr. McGregor". Dr. Stirling McGregor came from Saskatchewan but wasn't a stranger to Irma having visited his brother D.J. McGregor who was earlier an agent for the Security Elevator. He stayed with us until the summer of 1923.

The next doctor was Dr. Stoner - 1923 to 1926. Then Dr. Haworth took over until 1927. Dr. W.B. Murray took over from Dr. Haworth in the summer of 1927. By the end of 1928 he was going to leave Irma because he had not been able to collect sufficient money for the work he had done.



Mrs. Rae Adams, an early nurse.



Nurse Bessie (Tillapaugh) Long.

The residents of the Village of Irma and the surrounding district were desirous that he remain in the vicinity and practise his profession. They came up with an idea to induce him to stay. They guaranteed him an income of three thousand dollars for a period of a year. This guarantee was drawn up in December, 1928. It would become active on the first day of January, 1929. The monthly payment, due on the last day of each month, would be two hundred and fifty dollars.

The residents were canvassed to sign up for this plan and the yearly payment for each signer would be fifteen dollars per year. This took care of the whole family. It was necessary to have two hundred supporters for this plan. It was over-subscribed. This Doctor's Guarantee plan was carried out until 1942.

Dr. Murray left at the end of 1929 and Dr. Claude Greenberg became our doctor under the same guarantee. He enlisted in the army in 1942. He was our last resident doctor.

After Dr. Greenberg left, a doctor from Wainwright came to have office hours one afternoon a week. This arrangement continued for several years.

Several attempts were made to have a sixteen bed hospital established in Irma, but in 1920 the government said "no hospital in Irma".

Irma Establishes a Temporary Hospital

Nov. 1918

Owing to the necessity of providing for the cases of Flu, the number of which has been steadily increasing, a committee of the citizens decided to transform the church into a hospital to meet the occasion and provide trained nurses. By Wednesday noon the decks were cleared and eight beds installed and by four o'clock, Miss Tillapaugh, as nurse had her wards in order and five patients resting comfortably. The main floor of the church was converted into wards while the basement will be used for nurses quarters and cooking and laundry. This arrangement meets a very urgent need for naturally there are many in the community liable to the disease who could not well be cared for in private homes. Mrs. W. E. Kitchen, teacher of Strawberry Plains school has volunteered as nurse and will share the duties at the Hospital with Miss Tillapaugh. Irma community is very fortunate indeed in having the services of these ladies and of Dr. McGregor at a time like this for many places in the west are without either doctor or nurses and of course it is impossible to obtain them from the larger towns at present. Every one should assist in every way possible to reduce the work and responsibility of these skilled workers and serve them in every way possible, that they may not give out before the epidemic is past. In connection with equipment for the hospital it may be stated that the Alberta Associated Oil Co. furnished eight steel beds, springs and mattresses of the narrow hospital type from their camp at Irma, while bedding has been furnished by different citizens of the town. More bedding will be needed.



Cliff and Carrie Toll and Dr. McGregor.



Dr. and Mrs. C. Greenberg.

Authorities After Quarantine Breakers

Nov 1918

There is a disposition on the part of the Provincial authorities to make short shift with the people who fail to take the various orders of the Health officers seriously, and undertake to know just what is effective and what is not. There is but one way at a time like this and that is for every one alike to take any and all precautions that the officials decide are necessary. And this means Irma. Mr. A. W. Toll, J.P. today received instructions to the effect that the mask order was sweeping and must be obeyed by all and informing him that the Provincial officials and the Alberta law were behind the order and that any violator could be summoned at once and the minimum fine of \$50 assessed.

The board wishes it understood also that there can be no smoking with a mask and that sticking a pipe or cigar through a slit in the mask or under the edge of it does not go. It only emphasizes the danger of spreading contagion wherever people meet or are grouped together.

Citizens Agreement for Medical Services

Jan 11 1929

AGREEMENT BEING SIGNED BY THE RESIDENTS OF THE IRMA DISTRICT

This will insure the attendance of the Doctor to any member at any time within the year at a very moderate rate. The agreement is being signed by practically 100 per cent. of the settlers in some districts.

THIS AGREEMENT made in duplicate in the District of Irma, in the Province of Alberta, this..... day of December, A. D. 1928.
BETWEEN:

WILLIAM BARR MURRAY
of the Village of Irma, in the Province of Alberta, Physician and Surgeon, hereinafter called the party of the first part,

— and —

THE SEVERAL PARTIES
whose names are attached hereto, hereinafter called the parties of the second part.

WHEREAS the party of the first part is a physician and surgeon duly licensed to practice his profession in the Province of Alberta, and has for some time been residing and practicing his profession at Irma, Alberta.

AND WHEREAS the party of the first part has been contemplating leaving the Village of Irma because he has not been able to collect sufficient money for the work he has done to satisfy his requirements.

X It's the 'Flu! 1933
A man in a neighboring town after an experience with the 'flu, wrote the following poem so that people will be able to recognize the 'flu germ when they see one:

"When your back is broke
And your eyes are blurred,
And your shin bones knock
And your tongue is furred;
And your tonsils squeak,
And your hair gets dry,
And you're doggoned sure
You're going to die;
And you're scared you won't
And afraid you will—
Just drag to bed
And have your chill.
And pray the Lord
To see you through,
For you've got the 'flu,
Boy, you've got the 'flu.
"When your toes curl up
And your belt goes flat,
And you're twice as mean
As a Thomas cat;
And life is a long
And dismal curse,
And your food all tastes
Like a hard-boiled hearse;
When your lattice aches
And your head's a-buzz,
And nothing is
As it ever was,
Here are my sad
Regrets to you,
For you've got the 'flu,
Boy, you've got the 'flu.

IRMA TIMES AD. JAN. 11, 1918

Graduate Nurse

BESSIE TILLAPAUGH

of Vancouver is prepared
to go on any case at any
time

Leave word at

Red Cross Pharmacy

Irma

Irma. May 19th 1933
Received from Ole Eyrer
Fifteen ^{xx} Dollars
Doctors Guarantee for 1933
\$15.00
Masson
see here



Miss Lillian Tweedy, District Health Nurse, was presented with a certificate of recognition for her work in the Wainwright area.

Irma Mun. Hospital District No. 55 Now Non-operating

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Irma Municipal Hospital District No. 55 held in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Village of Irma, Province of Alberta, at 8 p.m., Wednesday, July 8th, A.D. 1959.

Trustees present: D. H. Gunn, J. A. Smallwood, A. C. Archibald; Secretary-Treasurer, A. C. Charter.

This being the final meeting of the Board of Trustees.

D. H. Gunn moved that the Minutes of the last meeting of the Board as read by the secretary be adopted as written. Cd.

Audited Financial Statement for the year 1959 presented as certified correct.

D. H. Gunn moved that Audited Financial Statement be accepted as presented and incorporated in the Minute Book. Cd.

D. H. Gunn moved that the Board being governed by Order in Council No. 41, proceed and distribute all surplus funds to the contributing Councils in the same proportion as they were received and that the following

Village of Irma Cd.

1372.71

D. H. Gunn moved that Secretary forward statement to the Director of Hospitals Division that the provisions of Ministerial Order No. 41 has been complied with. Cd.

J. A. Smallwood moved that the Secretary-Treasurer retain all records of the Irma M.H.D. No. 55 in safekeeping. Cd.

Archibald — that the Irma M.H.D. No. 55 remaining established geographically, shall become non-operating, having complied with all the provisions of Ministerial order No. 41, dated at Edmonton the 27th day of April, A.D. 1959, signed by J. Donovan Ross, Minister of Health, shall now cease to function.

—A. C. Charter, Secretary-Treasurer, Village of Irma.



Lil MacKay (nurse).

Five Irma Girls Graduate

It is something of a record, we believe, when five girls from one place become graduates of the same nursing class. Irma had that honor in the Misericordia nursing class of '56. Miss Doreen Simmermon makes her home in Irma, while Misses Evelyn Erickson, Norma Likness and Avis Satre have their parental homes south of town. Miss Alma King, at the time of entering upon her nursing career, did live with her parents north-east of Irma.



CHACUTENAH MANOR

Chacutenah Manor was built as an Alberta Housing Corporation project to provide moderately priced housing for senior citizens. It comprises twelve self-contained units with one especially designed for the handicapped. A central lounge, additional storage and laundry facilities are provided. The grounds are landscaped to provide a pleasant atmosphere for the residents. The Manor opened in June 1977 and has been fully occupied since that time.



Opening of Chacutenah Manor, Keith Coffin, Mrs. Kate McLean and Rev. Wilson.



Chacutenah Manor - 1977.

OLD AGE PENSION

In 1927 a means test for federal old age pensions was passed. To qualify for twenty dollars per month you had to be a Canadian resident for twenty years and be seventy years of age.

- 1930 - \$ 20.00 per month
- 1940 - \$ 40.00 per month
- 1960 - \$ 75.00 per month
- 1970 - the age limit was lowered to sixty-five years
- 1970 - \$ 79.55 per month
- 1974 - \$110.00 per month
- 1982 - \$238.00 per month
- 1984 - \$269.00 per month - September
- 1985 - \$273.80 per month - January

In 1972 a provincial pension was issued for those on Federal Pension with no other income. The pensions are now increased four times a year according to the increase in the cost of living.

MY HELPERS

by Nancy O. Parke

*Two little girls that work for me,
Kind, gentle, sweet and true;
Without them when I'm often ill
I don't know what I'd do.*

*They wash my dishes, dust my rooms
And clean my kitchen floor;
And bring me from my basement shelves
Food placed in ordered store.*

*They do my laundry, wash and iron,
And fold the clothes away;
Their daily promise keeps me safe
At night till morrow's day.*

*They close my doors and leave me safe
From thieving ones near by;
And wave a hand in kind adieu
That almost dims my eye.*

*In promise of God's watchfulness
In angel's guarding care;
They are to me as heaven sent
This helpful, serving pair.*

*And so I pray they be kept safe
From wrecking tempter's snare
And safe remain while in this world
In God's most precious care.*

*Forty years ago a man finished a day's work and
needed a rest. Today he needs exercise.*

IRMA CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

The Alliance Church in Irma began in 1941 when a student minister Mr. George Stranger started children's meetings and cottage prayer meetings. When Mr. Stranger left to go back to Bible School Mr. and Mrs. Garrison, missionaries to India filled in for a month.

In November 1941 Miss Vera Rudd from Ottawa came as a permanent worker. In 1942 services were held in a building on Main Street owned by Bill Masson. Wooden benches and a piano were donated and the little store became a chapel. Miss Rudd stayed until 1947 when Reverend and Mrs. Warnock came to take over.

After the Co-op Store bought the building where services were held, meetings were moved to Hedley's Hall. In the spring of 1948 the present property was purchased from Mr. Frank Murray of Kinsella. The property included a house for a manse and a vacant lot. Building a church began immediately and services were held there that fall.

In 1951 Reverend and Mrs. Hart serviced the Irma congregation. While they were here the church joined the body of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Reverend and Mrs. Ashdown came in 1952 and remained until 1955. During their stay new pews were built and other improvements made in the church basement. After Ashdowns left Reverend and Mrs. Sheardown came and stayed until 1960. During this time water was installed in both manse and church.

Reverend and Mrs. McGeaghay took over the pastorate in 1960 until 1964 and more improvements were made. When the Phillips came in 1964 it was decided to build a new manse. The old house was sold and a new one moved onto a new basement February 15, 1965. By the spring of 1968 the debt on the manse was paid off.

By the 1970's it was necessary to add on to the church



Rev. Sheardown and his wife with Anna Grace, Donna and Evangeline.

so in May 1971 an extension was begun. An auditorium to seat one hundred and fifty people was built as well as Sunday School rooms and a social centre. The building was dedicated in April 1972.

Phillips left in September 1972 and were followed by Reverend and Mrs. Jespersen. During their ministry here the church celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary as part of the Christian and Missionary Alliance on December 12, 1976. During their stay the church purchased larger pews to give more seating capacity.

Pastor Banks and wife Grace came in January 1978 and remained until November 1979 when they were replaced by Reverend and Mrs. Neufeld in January 1980. They stayed until September 1982. During their stay the platform was lowered and new rug laid to make the church more attractive.

In July of 1983 Reverend and Mrs. James Pedersen began their ministry in Irma and are serving here at the present time.



Rev. and Mrs. Ashdown.



Rev. and Mrs. McGeaghay, Melonie and Marsha.



Rev. Dan and Vi Jespersen and children.



Rev. and Mrs. E.A. Phillips, Donna and Dan.



Rev. Ernie and Mary Neufeld.



*James and Marilyn Pederson and children
- Christie, Dan, Tim and Mark.*



IRMA UNITED CHURCH

In the early 1900's Mission Boards were kept busy providing men to bring the ministry to the pioneer settlers. Before the schools were built church services were held in home - some of them were Toll's, Elliott's, Moore's, Clarke Manor and Swaile's.

In 1909 the Methodists placed Reverend Rutledge in Irma where he spent a year. His home on the church property was a ten by ten shack with a similar building for his horse.

By 1910 when Reverend and Mrs. Boothroyd came to take the charge, a twelve by twenty foot addition was made to the original shack making a comfortable three-room home where they spent three happy years.

A building committee was formed in 1909 to make plans to erect a church. James Fenton, A.G. Walker and Charles Swailes were some of the original building committee. A one hundred dollar grant was received from the Missionary Society and representatives from each school district were to solicit funds to build the church.

Early members of the Trustee Board about 1910 were Reverend Swinerton, Reverend Rutledge, James Fenton, Travis Sellers, George Purvis Sr., A.G. Walker, H.B. Armstrong, William Riley, Charlie Swailes, H. Burkholder, J. Graydon and William King.

Plans were made to dig a basement under the direction of Mr. Huffman and the building progressed with J.H. Mildon as head carpenter. Building the church was a real community effort and homesteaders brought their horses and oxen to help excavate, and to erect the structure. The young bachelors were glad to help, knowing a good home-cooked meal was forthcoming.

The Irma Methodist Church was opened and dedicated on November 26, 1910. The next day the Ladies' Aid held their first supper in the new building. A new manse was built in 1917 by S.G. Simmons at a cost of \$1399.29. In 1941 the barn was made into a garage. A church parlor was added to the south end of the church in 1946 under the direction of Mr. Locke, Fred Hill, Charlie Younker and Colin McLean. The Ladies' Aid installed a furnace to replace the stoves and eliminated the long lines of stove pipes. In 1951 natural gas was installed and water and sewer were connected to the church and manse in 1955.

The church's fiftieth anniversary in 1960 showed more room was necessary so the building was enlarged to the east. A Sector Plan was introduced and a church history was prepared under the leadership of Allen Ronaghan. Other improvements include carpet, electric organ and chimes in the belfry.

In 1925 the Presbyterian and Methodist churches united and our church became the Irma United Church. Ministers who served over the years included the Reverends Rutledge, Boothroyd, Pomeroy, Merriam, Hocken, Elliott, Wright, Geeson, Kemp, Longmire, Inglis, Lal, Wilson and Reverend Anne Gowans-Blinn.

The choir has always been a vital part of the church. It is impossible to make a complete list. Mr. and Mrs. W.H. King were leaders of a Choral Society which met in homes during the winter to sing hymns etc.



Methodist Church and parsonage at Irma, now the Irma United Church.



Methodist Lot and Building Committee of Irma.



Newly renovated Irma United Church 1985.



Reverend J.R. Geeson and Mrs. Geeson in 1939.



Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson, Mr. Longmire, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Inglis.

The Sunday School has also played an important role. The superintendents over the years include: A.C. Idle, F. Peterson, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Locke, I.S. Reeds, Stan Brown, Mrs. Wilson, Reverend Anne and Linda Pomeroy. Sunday School secretaries have been: Miss Flewelling, Mrs. Olaf Larson, Mrs. G.M. Holt and Mrs. Prosser.

Throughout the years the Irma United Church has served the community in various ways. In 1912 the basement was used as Irma's first Public Schools with Miss Bessie Brickman as teacher. In 1921-22 it served as Irma's first High School with Mr. J. Hollinshead in charge.

During the flu epidemic the church was used as a hospital with Doctor Murray McGregor and Bessie Tillepaugh R.N. in charge. The church was rented to the Anglicans in 1929-1935 for services. Today the basement is used for bridal showers, church suppers and church groups. At one time the church served as a rest room for mothers with small children while they waited for their husbands to complete their business in town.

Over the years there have been several youth groups - C.G.I.T., Hi-C and Explorers.

When Reverend Gordon Wilson retired in June of 1980, after very faithful service of nine years, the Official Board began a search for a replacement minister. It was indeed a unique experience to be served by a female ordinand, Reverend Anne Gowans, who came to us from Oshawa, Ontario.

Under Reverend Anne's direction, the Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs resumed, and a Youth Group, Junior Choir, Choral Group and Young Women's Study Group were born. The youth group has been instrumental in organizing a successful Roller Skating Venture in the skating arena for the past three summers. The Choral Group of some twenty odd members accompanied by Mrs. Betty Parsons and Mrs. Audrey Nissen was formed as a result of their appreciation for music, and a desire to assist the Senior Choir on an alternative basis. Yearly confirmation classes resumed with twenty young people being confirmed in 1981.

In May of 1982, Reverend Anne was married to Roy Blinn who now has an Industrial and Agricultural Overhead Door Company based in Irma.

Many renovations have taken place during the past few years with improvements to the manse, carpet in the church basement, insulation update, and more recently the Building 83 project which enlarged the front entrance and provided a second basement access.

In the past few years Reverend Anne has tried to bring variety to her services by holding an Armistice Sunday Service complete with bagpipes, servicemen and Cadets in attendance, a candlelight Christmas Eve Service, and a Sunrise service with pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday.



Irma Ladies Aid, 1913. Mrs. Fenton, Minister - Pomeroy, Mrs. George Higgenson, Inez Fenton, May Fenton, Gladys Stougaard, Mrs. Pomeroy, Mrs. C.T. Hill, Mrs. Toll, Mrs. J.G. Clark, Mrs. Crocker later, Mrs. Tripp, Two Fletts, Mrs. W. King, Mrs. Bill Stuart, Mrs. Bob Smallwood, Mrs. Burkholder, Mrs. Swailes, Mrs. Toll, Mrs. H.W. Love, Alex Smallwood, Mrs. Armstrong, Maud Smallwood and other children.



Irma Methodist Ladies Aid, 1914. Back Row, Left to Right: Rev. D.W. Pomeroy, Cliff McKay, Mrs. C. Toll, Mrs. W. Stuart, May Fenton, Mrs. George Higgenson, Mrs. McKillop, James Fenton, Inez Fenton, Gladys Stougaard, Sadie Lennon. Middle Row: Mrs. J. Lennon, Mrs. W. King, L. Flett, G. Fleet, Mrs. C.R. Hill, Mrs. Cliff McKay, Mrs. J.G. Clark, Mrs. Fred Higgenson, Mrs. H.W. Love, Mrs. R. Smallwood, Mrs. Murray McKillop and Murray, Mrs. James Fenton. Seated: Helen Pomeroy, Mrs. G. Tripp, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Burkholder, Mrs. Swailes, Mrs. A.W. Toll, Mrs. D.W. Pomeroy, and Alice, Eric Higginson, children - Alex Smallwood, Irma Burkholder, Maude Smallwood, Vera and Philip Stuart, Georgina Enger, Gordon Fenton, Miss Clara Sellers was the photographer.



Irma United Church Ladies' Aid.



C.G.I.T. Girls in 1921 - 1922. Left to Right: Reba Croker, Mazel Murphy (Frickelton), Lila Maguire, Bessie Barker, Mildred Chase, (?).

Throughout the years, the church has been steadfast in its purpose to promote God's word. May it continue in the coming years, and may God's blessing rest on all who give of their time, talent and substance that our church may progress.

Church News from the Irma Times showed some of the Church Schedules of earlier times and the areas covered by our ministers. There were more families in the area than now.

Schedule for Sunday August 11, 1918

- 11:00 A.M. - Bible Study and Preaching Service at Battle Heights
- 1:30 P.M. - Preaching service at Sunny Brae and followed by Sunday School Session
- 2:00 P.M. - Sunday School at Elliotts
- 3:30 P.M. - Preaching Service at Elliotts
- 2:30 P.M. - Irma Sunday School
- 8:00 P.M. - Irma Preaching Service

Everybody welcome
Chas. G. Hockin, Pastor

Later Church services were held at the following schools: Alma Mater, Roseberry, Albert, Passchendale, Strawberry Plains and Ross.



Irma Sunday School United Church, 1927.

CHURCH NOTICES AND ACTIVITIES

UNITED CHURCH NOTES

The Services next Sunday, October 13th, will be at:

Strawberry Plains — 11 A.M.

Albert School — 3 P.M.

Irma — 7.30 P.M.

There will be no service at Alma Mater next Sunday owing to the pastor being at Albert for the afternoon.

In Irma the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be held and all members are urged to attend.

There will be Prayer Services every Friday during the month of October and it is hoped that many will avail themselves of services in preparation for the coming Evangelistic Mission. They will commence at 8 P.M. ✕

PULPIT CHAIR PRESENTED TO IRMA CHURCH

A Christmas Service was held in the Irma Church on Sunday, December 23rd. In addition to the Christmas music by the Choir, and a Christmas sermon by the Pastor, there was a memorial address given by Mr. Jas. Fenton who presented to the congregation a Memorial Pulpit Chair donated by Mrs. E. J. Armstrong in memory of her husband who died August 11th, 1917.

Mr. Fenton outlined briefly the history of the organization and spoke of the important part taken by the late Mr. Armstrong in its temporal and spiritual development, having been closely associated with all its activities. Trustee Board, Official Board, Sunday School and Choir, from its inception until his death.

The Pulpit Chair is a beautiful memorial, worthy of a place in any sacred edifice. We are to be congratulated in having it entrusted to our care. We appreciate the gift and the confidence placed in us, and hope that we shall prove worthy of the trust.



Irma Mission Band about 1956, Mrs. Longmire - Leader.



Irma United Church Sunday School. Mrs. Arnold, Ethel Tate, Alice Flewelling, Mildred Hill, Mr. Stan Reeds, Mr. Locke, Mrs. Locke, Mrs. Reeds, Arthur Peterson, Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Osterhaut, Mr. Reeds - Superintendent, Miss Flewelling - Sec. Treas.



Irma C.G.I.T. group 1935. Ethel Arnold, Gladys Geeson, Dorothy Gleeson, Leader, Mrs. Johnson, Ethel Tate, Margaret Tate, Mildred Hill, (?), Stella Arnold, Ruth Reeds.

Put on a Happy Face

What good did it do to be grouchy today?

Did your surliness drive any troubles away?

Did you cover more ground than you usually do, because of the grouch that you carried with you?

If not, what's the use of a grouch or a frown, if it won't smooth a path or bring trouble down?

If it doesn't assist you it isn't worthwhile.

Your work may be hard, but just do it — and smile!

Free advice is usually worth the price.



July, 1945 - United Church Choir. Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Reeves, Mrs. Fletcher, Mrs. Black, Ethel Tate, Mrs. A. Enger, Mrs. Carter, Marjorie McFarland, Marion Longmire, Mrs. Hockett, Mrs. Longmire, Mrs. Frickleton, Lois Longmire, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. McFarland.

God gives every bird its food but He never throws it into a nest.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

On August 19, 1909 the Quarterly Board consisting of Reverend Rutledge, Reverend Steel of Kinsella, Reverend Swinerton of Viking, as well as Ed Huffman, Charles Swailes, T. Sellars, George Purvis, John Elliott and J.H.S. Armstrong met in the Irma Methodist Parsonage. Although no ladies were present, the men moved that a Ladies' Aid be organized and proceeded to elect the following officers: President - Mrs. Swailes, Vice-President - Mrs. Toll, Second Vice-President - Mrs. Purvis and the Secretary-Treasurer was Mrs. Armstrong.

The first supper had been held on Thanksgiving 1908, in Mrs. Swailes' kitchen followed by a program in Milburn Hall (profits eighteen dollars and fifty cents). Another supper was held in Swailes' kitchen with an auction of bazaar goods. Reverend Rutledge, a bachelor, was presented with a comforter.

Their main work was to oversee the manse, buying furniture, decorating and so on. In 1928, Mrs. Fenton retired after eight years as President and in 1929 Mrs. Tripp retired as secretary after seventeen years service.

In 1950 the Ladies' Aid became known as the Women's Association or W.A. The units from Tofield to Wainwright were formed into the Wainwright Presbytery, with Mrs. M. Enger as president. When the St. Paul Presbytery was formed, Georgina Enger was president and Mrs. McLean was corresponding secretary.

A Junior W.A. was formed in the '50s with Mrs. W. Symington as president and Mrs. Alf Halvorsen as

Troubles

The good Lord sends me troubles
And I have to work them out,
But I look around and see
That there's trouble all about,
And when I see my troubles
I just look up and grin,
And count up all the troubles
That I'm not in.

secretary and Mrs. Earl Fuder as treasurer. They worked with the afternoon group and the two groups totalled fifty members.

In 1962 under direction from the central organization in Toronto the W.A. and the W.M.S. together became the United Church Women. There were two units. The former W.M.S. plus a few others became the afternoon U.C.W. and the W.A. composed of all members under Mrs. K. Coffin as President. This did not prove satisfactory, so in 1964 we became two separate U.C.W.'s but in 1966 the afternoon group disbanded and all became just the evening U.C.W.

They carried all the work of women's groups in the church and as an example of their activities for four years 1968-1972 with an average attendance of twenty-four they raised an average of fifteen hundred dollars a year for all missionary and local purposes.

Since 1972 our membership has dwindled to approximately fifteen but enthusiasm remains high and in 1983 we increased our fund from fifteen hundred to five thousand dollars. This increase was partly due to some of our newer activities and two New-to-you Sales annually and a quilting bee once a week during the winter months.

This money is spent on Mission Work here and abroad, remodelling church, upkeep on our manse and helping community and world-wide interests. For example, when the idea of purchasing Third World coffee and tea directly from Bridgehead was introduced into our church we supported them by serving and buying it. Bridgehead by-passes the multinational companies that control the

wholesale prices and marketing and if Third World countries receive a reasonable share of the benefits entitled to them from these products, Third World poverty could be abolished.

Sometimes our U.C.W. supply only the idea and money to do the projects and others in the congregation help. For example, in 1977 we have to extend our thanks to Eldon Fenton who at the age of eighty years shingled the manse roof assisted by Reverend Wilson, Jack Clisdell and Mrs. Wilson. All the U.C.W. did was to supply the shingles.

All our work is not money raising projects. We take part in the World's Day of Prayer, floats in our parades, Ecumenical service and have an annual Friendship Meeting at our March meeting. We donate clothing and bedding to Indian reservations, Bissell, Salvation Army, WIN houses etc. We remember the bereaved, sick and shut-ins in our community by cards and visits, assist cart service at Auxiliary Hospital and donate lap robes to patients there.

We would like to mention that in the past few years the U.C.W. does not carry on all the work of the women's groups in the church. We now have a number of varied groups to help. In the past the U.C.W. organized and served the church suppers, smorgasboards, etc. with help from our church congregation, conducted church services in minister's absence, formed a church choir and other duties which are now being shared by younger groups in the congregation. We can now leave the organizing work to them and our U.C.W. helps with work and food, leaving us free for private catering, New-to-You Sales and quilting. We are now fulfilling better our U.C.W. purpose - "To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service."



Irma United Church Sixtieth Anniversary Quilt.



The Irma United Church Women in 1981. Standing: Peggy Fleming, Jenny Barber, Lorna Jackson, Mary Dempsey, Elma Tomlinson, Marjorie Fischer, Jean Burton. Front Row: Elsie Pond, Louisa Prosser, Georgina Enger, Dorcas Coffin, Ruby MacMillan.



Irma United Church Choir, June 1970. Back Row, Left to Right: Rev. Inglis, Martin Enger, Eldon Fenton, May Long (organist), Elsie McRoberts. Front Row: Lois Jack, Alma Enger, Orril Darling, Lily Simmerman, Isabell Fenton, Mary Dempsey, Georgina Enger.



Mission Band - 1956. Back Row: Maureen Gunn, Joyce Dunbar, Gail Sampson, Bruce Burton, Beth Milne, Edna Desjardine, Gail Whidden, Velma Elliott. Front Row: Arthur Jack, Wayne Burton, Anne Jones, Margaret Dunbar, Cheryl Lynn MacMillan, Trudy Coffin, Bobby Anne Kirkman, Billy Inkin, Linda Prosser.

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

P.E. Craig

Although Anglican services had been held in the early years at the homes of various settlers, it was not until 1927 that a real need for a church was felt. That year Mr. and Mrs. Fred Thurston and their family of eight children arrived in Irma from Wales. Although they attended the United Church for a short time, they missed the familiar Anglican service.

In 1928, it was with great joy that a congregation of Anglicans came together for a service in the upstairs hall of Mr. Simmons' building, located about where Larson's original garage building now stands. Rev. A.M. Trendell, a young clergyman from England who was in charge of St. Thomas' Parish in Wainwright, drove up to Irma to conduct services. This was no mean undertaking, since the road at that time was narrow, with little gravel. He bounced over the ruts, and through mud puddles in the Chevrolet coupe, complete with a rumble seat, which we called "the Galloping Goose". The Vicar's Warden was Mr. J.P. Yeend, and People's Warden Mr. L.M. Roberts.

It was in this first rented building that the first Confirmation service was conducted, by Bishop H.A. Gray on April 28, 1929. Those confirmed were: Elizabeth Higginson, Phyllis Thurston, Mary Jones, Emily Wilbraham, May Long, and Pryce Jones.

The first baptism was that of Kathleen Jones on September 30, 1928, then Jackie Fletcher on April 28, 1929. The first Anglican marriage recorded is that of Ted Dallow and Edith Trumper, July 3, 1929 at the home of Jim Craig Sr. The first burial recorded in the register is that of James Nigel in 1929, followed by Charlotte Harper in 1930. Services were next held in an old store, and then in the United Church. When a gift of \$5 was sent from East Hagbourne Mothers' Union, Berkshire, England, to the Women's Auxiliary, a building fund was started. At a Vestry meeting held at Harry Carter's, the bank balance was shown to be \$18.75, and out of this a minute book was to be purchased. At the Annual Meeting on April 22, 1934, a resolution was passed to pay Rev. Bateman the munificent sum of \$150 per year as our share of his stipend. In 1934 a garden party was held at the home of the Fred Thurstons to raise money. By early 1935, the small congregation was unable to continue paying rent for the United Church, and a decision had to be made - either discontinue services, or erect a building. The building fund by now had reached the vast sum of \$114, so we decided to build. The land was donated by Mr. J.P. Yeend - the north part of the lot south of the property now owned by Mr. Lawrence White. An auction sale of donated goods was held to raise money to pay for lumber and chimney materials. With Mr. Jim Jackson as auctioneer, this was a success. The W.A. gave \$12, and donations were received from St. Mortimer's W.A. in Jarrow, and from members of the parish.

Using volunteer labour of friends in the district, and supervised by Mr. T. Sanders and sons, the church became a reality, and the first service was held in July, 1935. The seats were planks placed on nail kegs, and music was provided by Mr. Harry Carter and his violin.



Confirmation Class. Leigh Currie, Leigha Glasgow, Rev. Ann, Leila Glasgow, Tracey Fischer, Dianna Soucy, Fay Nissen, Blake Prior, Dwight Larson, Michael Soucy, Colin Kumick, Diane Smith, Ian Currie, Trent Larson, Ian Currie, Darcy Lemieux, Blaine McMillan, Doug Fischer.

A real man's worth is determined by what he does when he has nothing to do.

GOD'S LOVE

Cast your cares upon the Lord,
For Jesus cares for you.
God's Holy Scripture tells us so,
And this I've proven true.
God made the heaven and the
earth,
And God made me and you,
And since He loves the earthly
things,
Likewise does He love you.

Heaven is high above the earth
And much there lies between,
But God's love never fails us
When our soul has asked Him in.
God ever watches over us
For fear that we should stray,
His tender presence ever with us
While we tread the narrow way.

Jesus came down here to dwell,
And die on Calvary's tree.
It was His love that made Him go
And suffer there for me.
And if I Love Him when I die
I shall not suffer hell,
But shall ascend the heavenly way
And with my Saviour dwell.

Arthur Elliott.

A legacy from Berkshire later provided pews and kneelers. On September 27, 1936 the Church of St. Mary's was dedicated by Bishop Burgett. Later on Bishop Burgett provided the paint for the exterior of the building.

Years of depression made it difficult to carry on - in 1940 the bank balance was only \$14.17, and a motion was passed to send \$12.50 to Rev. R. Boas, the minister at that time. In 1941 the question again arose as to the advisability of closing the church. Collections for 1940 had been \$66.56, creating a debit to begin with in 1941. In 1943 annual pledges averaged \$12.50, and the total attendance had been five hundred and forty-three. By May 1945 conditions had improved, and it was again the time of decision - should we add a porch to the building, or should we finished the interior? The porch won out - it was to be 8'x12' and 9' high. Cost of material at the Imperial Lumber yard were: for a porch - \$131, discounted to \$124.45, for the interior \$24.50 discounted to \$23.45. Finishing the interior was postponed until more money was available. Volunteer labourers working on the porch were Ed Sanders, Jack Fletcher, Bill Dootson and F. Darling.

At the Annual Meeting in 1946, a resolution increased our monthly contribution to Rev. Bralant's salary to \$15 - St. Thomas' Church had increased his stipend to \$1500 per annum, making his total salary \$1680 per annum! By 1950 St. Mary's contribution was further raised to \$22 per month. It has always been the custom of the congregation at Christmastime, to place a box in the church, into which parishioners put gifts of produce, meat, groceries, etc. These gifts acted as a supplement to the low salary, and were much appreciated. This is still done today, not because of need, but as a goodwill gesture of appreciation to the clergyman.

Generous donations through the years have resulted in a beautifully furnished church. Rev. C.N. Bateman built the altar, while Mrs. Bateman crocheted the beautiful

altar cloth; Christ Church W.A., Edmonton - altar linens; Bishop Burgett - paint; Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Inkin Sr. - the organ; Mr. and Mrs. C. Wilbraham - the prayer desk; Mr. and Mrs. F. Thurston - brass candlesticks and vases; Mothers' Union of East Hagbourne - communion vessels, alms plate, Bible, and money to purchase other necessities. In 1949 a beautiful brass cross was given by the Thurston families in Wales, and in 1952 we received a silver font given in memory of Rev. W.K. Walters. In 1958 concrete steps were added through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Holt. A church in Cooksville, Ont. donated carpet, and Gothic windows donated by Mr. and Mrs. F. Thurston in 1957 improved the appearance of the church. Donated by Mr. and Mrs. N. Blades and other parishioners, the installation of natural gas that year made the church more comfortable. In 1959 a memorial donation from Cooksville, Ont. was used to purchase material for green and white burses and veils. In 1963 new pews were obtained from Clark Lumber Co. in Edmonton, and donated to the church by members of the congregation. The old pews found a new home in Sedgewick. We received ten new Prayer Books from Mr. W. Lawson, and five from St. Mary's W.A. A memorial desk Prayer Book was given by David Holt. The church has been completely carpeted in recent years, and a new prayer desk purchased by the A.C.W. in memory of friends.

Until 1959, St. Mary's was a part of the Wainwright Deanery, and at that time we became attached to the St. Matthew's Mission in the Viking Deanery. While with Wainwright, priests in charge were: Rev. A.M. Trendell, who later became Bishop of Vancouver, Rev. C.N. Bateman 1937-39; Rev. R.M. Boas 1939-41; Rev. L.M. Watts 1941-42; Rev. L.A. Bralant 1942-46; Rev. F.E. Smith 1947-48; Rev. R.K. Walters 1948-52; Rev. J. Moorhouse 1952-55; Mr. Comely 1956; Rev. J. Flagler 1956-59.

On June 15, 1959 when St. Mary's joined St. Matthew's Mission, Canon G.A. Crawley was priest in charge. He remained until 1965, when Rev. M. McDermott took his place. He was succeeded in 1968 by Rev. David Bloom. During his tenure, a trial ministry was inaugurated, for one year. Rev. Bloom took charge of Viking United Church, Kinsella United Church, as well as St. Matthew's Anglican in Viking and St. Mary's, Irma. This proved so successful that the arrangement is still in operation. In 1971 Mr. Bloom was called to St. Paul's, Edmonton, and Rev. James Bennett took his place. He is the present incumbent.

Vicar's Wardens have been: Mr. J.P. Yeend, Mr. Pryce Jones, Mr. Axel Peterson, Mr. H. Targett, Mr. J. Holt, Mr. W. Lawson, Mr. W. Dootson. People's Wardens were Mr. L.M. Roberts, Mr. W.E. Inkin Sr., F.T. Thurston, N. Blades, David Holt and E.G. Thurston. Secretaries are Mr. J.P. Yeend, J. Carter, E.G. Thurston, W. Dootson, Phyllis Craig. Treasurers have been W.E. Inkin Sr., F.T. THURSTON, H. Targett, N. Blades, R. Thurston, Jean Mitton, Phyllis Craig. Organists during the years have been Harry Carter, Mrs. Targett, Mrs. Olive Jones, Mrs. Marjorie Crawford, Mrs. F. Darling, Mrs. Jim Ford and Mrs. Margaret Millar.



Irma Anglican Church.

SAINT THERESA'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church was built in 1928 by Father M. Murphy of Wainwright, with the help of Local parishoners. Prior to the building of the church, Mass was offered once a month in the homes of the parishioners and also in the room over Liden's General Store. This was started by Father George Lemaire of the Wainwright Parish as early as 1911 and was carried on by Father Doyle. Some of the early settlers' names connected with the Catholic church at Irma were Hasse, Lattiner, Cummings, Young, Soneff, Riddle, and Donaghue.

Father Murphy named the church "St. Theresa's Mission" in honor of St. Theresa of Lisieux, France. St. Theresa died on September 30, 1897 and was proclaimed "Patroness of the Missions" by Pope Pius XI in 1927.

In 1933, St. Theresa's was served by Father McGrane who travelled from Wainwright and later Fabyan, each Sunday. Finally, in 1935 a rectory was built beside the church, and Father McGrane took up residence there until he moved to Lac La Biche in 1940. He was the only Priest to live in Irma. Father McGrane is well remembered as a ham radio operator who received messages from people around the world. He was also a printer and put out a monthly edition called the *Theresian*". Upon Father McGrane's request, a statue of St. Theresa was sent to the Irma Mission by her sister, the Prioress of the Carmelite Convent of Lisieux, France. That statue still stands inside the church.

Two Irma girls, Mary and Paula Meyer, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Meyer, had religious calling and joined the order of The Sisters of the Precious Blood.

The Irma Catholic Women's League was formed in 1955. The League was active in religious study and in helping the under-privileged. They also sponsored the local Girl Guide and Brownie Groups. Their annual fund raiser was a bedding plant sale held in the spring. An organ was purchased for the church, with a memorial donation to the C.W.L. in memory of Ambrose Firkus. At present, the C.W.L. is no longer active.

Over the years St. Theresa's parish has been served by several Priests, among them Fathers Stempfle, Novakowski, Boudreau, Nearing, McKenzie, and at the present Father McInnis.

The most recent renovations to St. Theresa's started in 1981 with the lowering of the ceiling and replacement of the inner walls. Since then carpet has been installed and the roof and steeple have been re-shingled. The present Church Board members are Mike Oracheski and Joanne Leskowsky. A small church in a small parish, St. Theresa's Mission survives in the light of God's Love.

"Now as for you, dear brothers who are waiting for the Lord's return, be patient like a farmer who waits until autumn for his precious harvest to ripen" (James 5:7)



Irma Catholic Church.

FORMER IRMA PRIEST BURNED WHEN TRAINING SHIP EXPLODES

LAC LA BICHE. — Explosion and fire Tuesday destroyed the "Exeter" training ship of Lac la Biche sea cadets and seriously burned its captain, Rev. J. E. McGrane.

The ship, a 30 foot ketch with 10-foot beam and built of spruce and tamarac in the Lac la Biche district, was constructed by residents of the district. It had been in use practically all day Tuesday and was tied up at the government breakwater when the explosion occurred. No reason was given for the blast. The priest-captain was the only person aboard at the time. Father McGrane was rushed to the Lac la Biche hospital where he is reported recovering.

From his hospital bed, Father McGrane said the loss of the ship would seriously curtail activities of the sea cadets this summer but announced that his corps would participate in the annual sea cadet camp at Lake Wabamun.

A Loving Heart

A loving heart is like a garden

Where thoughts become the roots
Loving words produce the flowers
As kind deeds raise the fruits.

SHARON LUTHERAN CHURCH

The congregation was organized November 13th, 1910, under the guidance of Pastor A. Hjortaas, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Christensen. Seven families made up the first membership list: Mr. and Mrs. Christenson, Mrs. N. Fuder, Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Gulbraa, Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Larson, Mrs. Haugen, Mr. and Mrs. Mattais Larson, Mr. and Mrs. O. Paulson, all with their children; also the following single men: Joe H. Gulbraa, John H. Gulbraa, Thore Hanson, Chris Knudson, Elmer Erickson, John Peterson and Oskar Steffenson. The name Sharon was chosen and thus Sharon Norwegian Lutheran Congregation came into being.

Pastor Hjortaas came to Irma by train from Bardo, where he served a pastorate. He was succeeded by Pastor C.L. Jothén in 1912. They came and held services about six times a year.

At the second meeting of the congregation in 1913 the Nikolai Fluevog family became members. The services were now being held in Coal Springs schoolhouse which had been built in 1913. After each service lunch would be served, a custom appreciated by the bachelors who would never miss a service.

Next came Pastor C. Hoversten in 1915, who served at Ryley. Sharon now became affiliated with the congregation. In 1916 the H. Knudson family arrived in the district and became members. In 1919 it was possible for Sharon to affiliate with another parish still closer, Golden Valley Lutheran at Viking which Pastor Braa was serving. Glenholm school was built in 1920 so services were conducted alternately in it and Coal Springs.

Pastor Boe served from 1923 to 1931. In 1932 Pastor Saugen came. He encouraged the building of the church. Gladly the men set to work under the direction of a qualified carpenter, Mr. Mike Johnson from Viking. Services were first held in the church in the fall of 1933. The first seats were planks laid on nail kegs. Later pews and a pulpit were made by Mr. Simmons of Irma. In 1950 the chancel was shipped to Irma in boxes. The painting of the altar was chiefly the work of Mr. Dendrew Likness.

Mr. Fred Knudson offered to pay for the first marriage license used in Sharon. Lawrence Fuder and Helen Lindquist took advantage of this offer and were married in 1940 at Sharon's 30th Anniversary celebrations. Gordon Hollinger was the first baby baptized in Sharon and the first confirmation class held in the church was in 1934, when Phyllis Erickson, Magnus Gulbraa, Kenneth Reitan, Harold Gulbraa and Clarnece Lovig were confirmed by Pastor Saugen.

Pastor J.B. Stolee served from 1937 to 1945. In 1946 Pastor Saugen returned to the Viking parish. He remained until 1951 and was instrumental in the reorganization of the parish. Thus in 1952 Sharon, together with Trinity and Bethania congregations, formed the new Sedgewick parish. Pastor Lars Knudson was to be the first minister to occupy the Sedgewick parsonage. Next came Pastor C. Magee who served from 1957 to 1963, Pastor S.J. Christopherson, 1964 to 1968, Pastor H.G. Kapeikis, 1968 to 1971.

Through the early years only the Norwegian language was used in church services. Pastor Hoversten began to



include a short message and some hymns in English. Pastor Saugen had alternate services in two languages. English, for the most part, was used by Pastor Stolee because many nationalities were now represented in the congregation. Dr. Egadahl, a retired E.L.C. pastor, while he made his home in Sedgewick, preached a message in Norwegian from time to time.

As the years went by many improvements were added to the church. The highlight for the 50th anniversary in 1960, was the purchase of a new Conn electric organ which was dedicated to the pioneers and builders of the congregation. Mrs. M. Reitan was the first organist and served faithfully for many years. Della Nilson is the present organist. A choir was in existence before 1916 under the direction of Mr. O. Larson. At the present time Mr. Norman Fluevog is the president.

Sharon congregation rejoices that two of its sons are in the Lutheran ministry, namely Curtis Satre and Lawrence Likness. They were ordained in 1952. At the present time Pastor Likness is serving Zion Lutheran Church in Saskatoon and Pastor Satre as the Director of Canadian Missions. Mrs. Doris Likness, a faithful member of Sharon, offered to go to the foreign mission field, upon her retirement from teaching in Irma. On January 2nd, 1972, she was commissioned by Rev. P. Nostbakken to serve on the Lutheran Mission in New Guinea. May we all carry on with the fervent spirit of our forefathers to "spread His light from age to age!"

In 1977 extensive renovations were done to the church basement; new wall board installed, new rug on the floor and more cupboards built. That year we held a special service and dinner honoring the three sons of the parish, Rev. Lawrence Likness, Rev. Allen Severson and Rev. Curtis Satre, on their twenty-five years in the ministry.

Sharon joined with the sister congregations of the parish in 1979 to sponsor a "Boat family from Viet Nam". Tang Tu and his family started their new life in Canada, making their home in Irma.

In 1980 the 70th anniversary of Sharon Congregation with a two-day celebration under the theme "Enter His Gates With Thanksgiving". The front doors for the church were replaced by beautiful new doors paid for by a grant from the Alberta 75th Anniversary Fund. An identical side entrance door was given as a memorial. To compliment these new doors the exterior of the church was repainted. Renovations were also made to the Sanctuary with new upholstery on the altar railing and chairs. A first for our congregation was the arrival of a husband and wife team of pastors - Pastors George and Carol Qualley. We said good bye to Mrs. Doris Likness and Orville who moved to their new home in Sedgewick. The Parish choir (singers from all three churches) was a real success and shared with others.

1982 was a very busy time at Sharon when a new well was drilled and water and sewer installed. Two bathrooms were built on, to make our church more comfortable for our members. A Cross was built on the outside wall to be illuminated.

We were saddened by the death of our only charter member Mr. Oskar Steffenson at the age of ninety nine years. We were honoured to have a visit from Dr. Jacobson of Saskatoon - President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

1983 - one of our Senior members Mrs. Joe (Tina) Gulbraa passed away in April of 1983 at the age of ninety-four years.

We again enjoyed a special day when Jung and Sharon (Ruste) Hunsiker, Anna and Walter were commissioned to go to the mission field in the Camerouns. They left in August for France where they are attending a language school. They are going to help teach proper methods of farming.

A smile is the lighting system of the face and the heating system of the heart.

SHARON LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Sharon L.C.W. began in 1910 as a group called the Ladies' Aid. A small group of women met at the C. Christensen home and the first executive consisted of Mrs. J.B. Gulbraa, President; Mrs. C. Christensen, Vice President; Mary Christensen, Secretary Treasurer. The charter members of this group were: Mrs. J.B. Gulbraa, Mr. C. Christensen, Mary Christensen, Mrs. Haugen, Mrs. Olaf Larson, Mrs. Paulson and Mrs. N. Puder. When the following ladies came to the district, they became members; Mrs. N. Pluevog, Mrs. M.O. Larson and Mrs. Martin Knudson. This group was later known as the "Women's Missionary Federation". In 1961 when the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the American Lutheran Church merged, the women's group became known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church Women. By the time this book is printed we will have made another name change to the Evangelical Lutheran Women. This takes effect after the merger of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada and the Lutheran Church in America -

Canada Section

This initial group met monthly, now meetings are held every three weeks. At these monthly meetings sewing and quilting was done. Even in those hard times the women gave towards foreign missions. Their first sale of handiwork was held in 1914 and is an annual event of fellowship, fun, and a major source of income to this day.

Other sources of income over the years have been lawn socials, fall suppers, bake sales and even three smorgasbords. Offerings are received at every meeting but only five of these are retained in the local treasury. Due to a yearly gift of turkeys since 1977, by a friend of the congregation, the fall church suppers have been resumed.

Highlights of the L.C.W. are the Love Offering and Thank Offering programs. The latter has been an annual event since 1961. These entire offerings go to mission related projects of our church.

The L.C.W. has supported various projects through the years with money, prayer and time. Some of these are: Lutheran World Relief; Lutheran Radio Broadcasts; Canadian and World Missions; Lutheran Evangelistic Movement; World Mission Prayer League; C.L.B.F. and C.L.C. in Camrose, Hastings Lake Bible Camp; Luther Seminary Auxiliary; Canadian Bible Society; Bethany Home for Children at Gwynne, Alberta Hospital; Oliver, Bangladesh; and a foster child in South America.

Several layettes have been sent to Hong Kong and elsewhere. Activiti Kits, Klenh Kits and the Doncas Sewing Project were made and sent to needy places.

In the latter part of the fifties it was decided that in place of exchanging Christmas cards with each other, that we give money to a Community Christmas Card. The names of the donors were put on a card displayed at the church and the proceeds have gone to worthy causes.

Through the years we have contributed to the support of many missionaries and in particular to the Rev. and Mrs. H. Engen, while they were working or when in Canada. More recently, we have and are supporting Jung and Sharon Hunsiker who have gone as missionaries to the Cameroun in Africa. Sharon was the former Sharon Ruste, daughter of Henry and Arlene Ruste of Wainwright, Alta.

In January, 1972, Doris Likness left for the mission field in Papua, New Guinea. She was greatly missed because of her willingness to help lead the monthly Bible studies which are the heart of our L.C.W.

After many years of hauling water to the church for any function, we had a well drilled in 1982. We ladies have really appreciated this convenience especially at our turkey supper.

The experience of helping a refugee Chinese family from Viet Nam (Yan People) has been most rewarding. On their part, Tu Tang, his wife Anh and son Lap Thu have been very grateful to Sedgewick parish for all the help received. Hopefully the words of Jesus, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me," (Matthew 25:44), were made real in this family.

It is because we care for each other, and more importantly, for the work of the Kingdom, that our L.C.W. thrives and stays alive.



Sharon Church entry in parade with Tina Gulbraa and Oskar Stefensen.

SURE THING

*Each year brings cute new calendars
In every kind of shape and size,
But whatever calendar you choose
It will not change how fast times flies.*

HEAVENLY MUSIC

*You should hear Aunt Sadie at the organ - her rendering
brings tears to my eyes.
As she battles those old loved hymns, you can hear the
tortured cries of the notes of the dear old organ
As Aunt Sadie strives for the tune;
She's taken lessons for twenty years - sure hope she learns
them soon.*

*You should listen to Aunt Sadie singing, such glory in a
voice so sandpaper fine.
Combined with a few notes copied from a bullfrog, her
songs recall aspirins to mind.
When Aunt Hattie tunes up her fiddle, and joins in with
Aunt Sadie at the keys,
It puts all the screech owls of the forest to shame with
their enthusiastic melodies.
And our ol' hound dog always joins them whenever they
play and sing their songs.
His sad yodelling complements them greatly, for he can
hold those high notes so long.
What a wonderful, cultured concert I'm hearing; such a
privilege to hear such talented folks.
Pass me an Alka-Seltzer cocktail at intermission to calm
all this emotion their harmonizing evokes.*



ALBERTA'S EMBLEM

Alberta's lovely emblem, the wild roses bright and
gay,
The sweetest flower that God has ever made;
They smile in blushing thousands from the hedges by
the way,
And brighten every pasture land and glade.

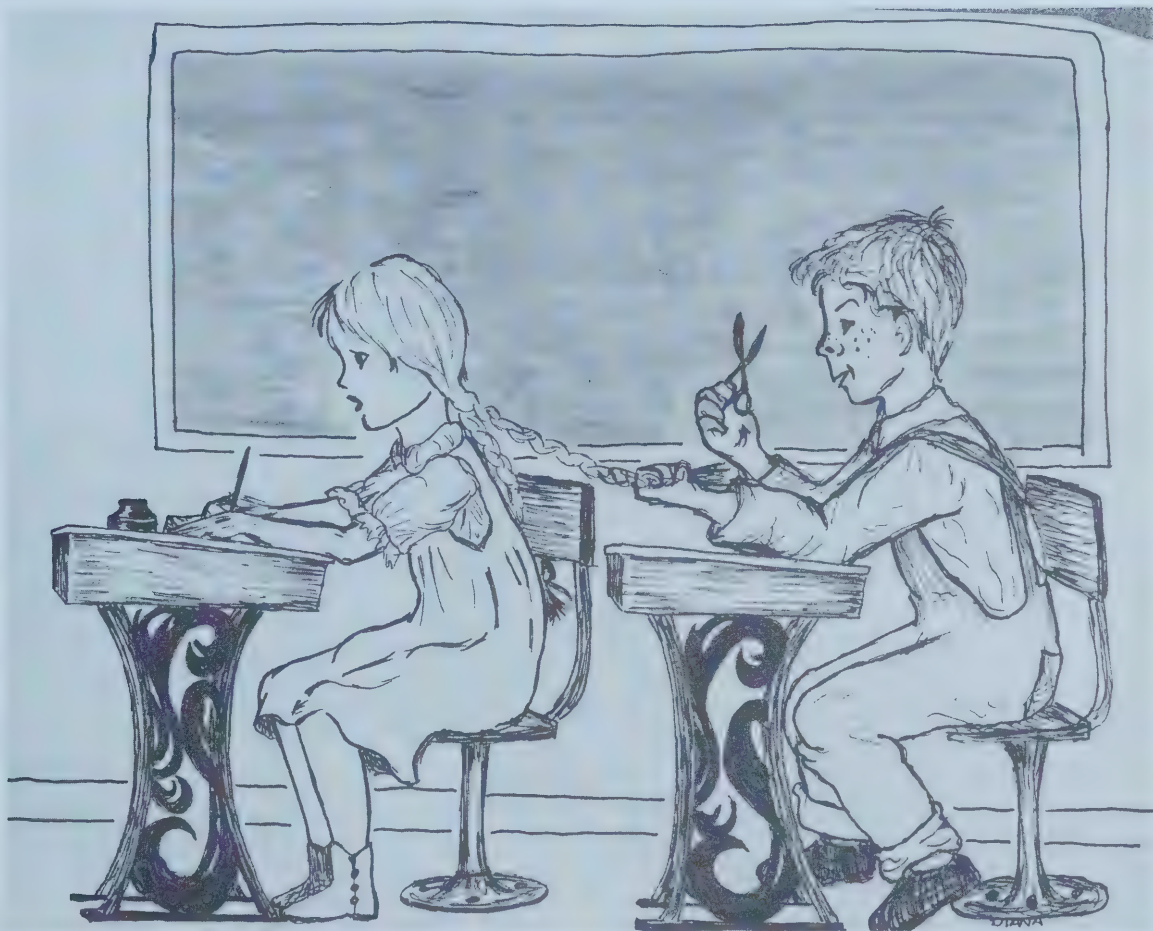
You will find them in the valley, you will find them on
the hill,
You find them in the woods and in the field;
And the bumblebees, contented, drone along and take
their fill,
Of nectar that the shining blossoms yield.

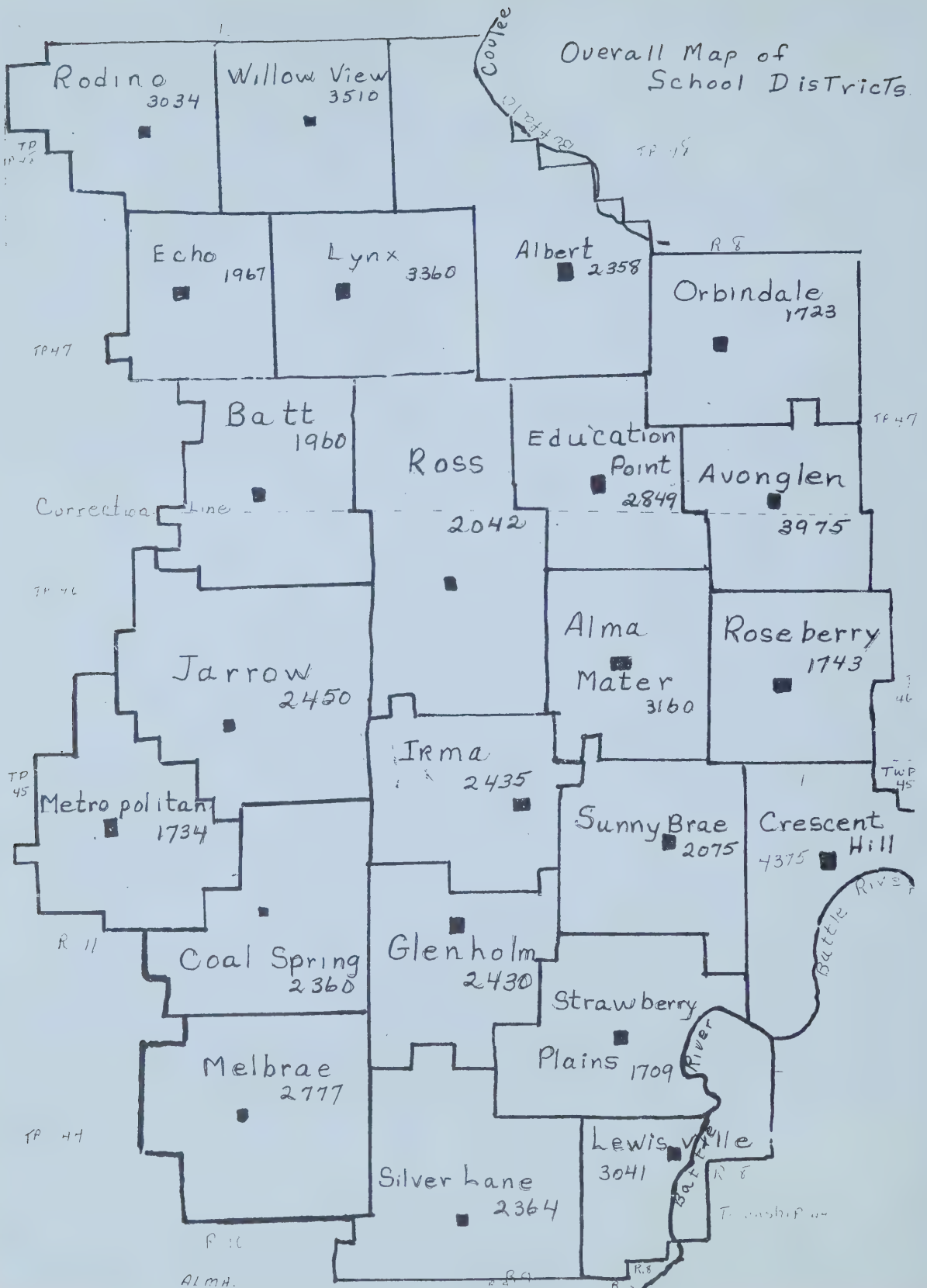
O, the sweet demure wild roses, make the country
side so fair,
Their elegance is seen on every hand,
Their spicy perfume spreads its fragrance on the
balmy air,
Their smiling faces brighten all the land.

So don't go rushing by them, pause to see each smiling
face,
God put them there to lift our thoughts on high;
And all who linger near them gather something of the
grace,
Of Alberta's emblems, smiling at the sky.

CHAPTER 4

DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS





ALBERT DISTRICT

Settlement began in the Albert (Zoldovara) district around 1905 when W.C. Williams and his half-brother E.J. Jones arrived from Brecon, Wales to take up homesteads on S.W. 30-47-8 and S.E. 30-47-8. They drove from Edmonton by team and wagon as the railway was still two miles from Mannville. They spent a few nights with Bob Guy who was living in a tent north of their homesteads.

George Ambler settled on the north side of the Buffalo Coulee in 1905, later moving south of the coulee onto S.E. 6-48-8 near what is known today as Ambler's Lake.

In 1906 another bachelor George Hardy from Prince Edward Island homesteaded S.W. 36-47-9. Others filing for homesteads at this time were: Herb Oakley, William Matthews, Barney Devinney, C. Winters, Lew Hardy and Art Sproule.

The next few years saw many more settlers take land. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Matthews were the first married couple to come to the district and their son Fredrick was the first baby. In 1909 Mr. Victor Larson arrived from Minnesota and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rae from Quebec. The "Cap" Larsons moved from the Ross district and Cap and Jack Rae purchased scrip land.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fleming and son came west in 1910 followed by John Fleming in 1911. Joe operated the first open office, Zoldovara. Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Ramsay and two small sons came from the Orbindale district in 1911 as well. Roy Hay homesteaded S.E. 14-48-9 in 1910.

In 1909 Mr. Fred Pyle came from Ontario and after building a house sent for his wife and three children. His daughter, Mary was the first bride of the district when she married Layton Barss. Branch Murphy came from Quebec in 1909 also. His mother and sister joined him in 1913.

Other early settlers were: Mr. and Mrs. William Mitchell and Family, Fred and Ed Cail, John Barss and two sons, Ted Vickery and Mr. McMinn.

After George Hardy had been back to Prince Edward Island to get his bride, Lena Currie and told of the advantages of the West, Leigh Currie decided to give it a try. The next year the rest of the Currie family arrived locating north of Alex McRoberts, another bachelor from Ireland, who had bought Jack Rae's scrip. He and Ella Currie were married the next year. Leigh Currie was the last to get homestead land in the district.

Once the school was built it became the hub of the district with dances, suppers and card parties being put on there. Neighborliness and friendships of those early times is to be envied today.

One of the first organizations in the Albert district was the U.F.A. which had a large membership and worked for the benefit of the community. Much fun was derived from fund raising efforts to raise money for the Christmas concert or the Red Cross. Card parties were held in the winter and each summer a picnic. In 1936 the Albert Women's Institute was formed. They helped the U.F.A. in raising funds as well as sending knitted articles and ditty bags overseas. They disbanded in 1942 to be followed by the formation of the Buffalo Coulee Women's Institute in 1947 and it is still active today.

Over the years the Albert district has been active in sports - ball games in the summer with the Albert Royals and Little League baseball. In winter there was skating and hockey. Mr. O. Griffiths directed a Drama Club and C.G.I.T. was headed by Mrs. Griffiths.

In 1956 a Circle A Square Dance Club was formed and at the same time the Albert Busy Beavers girls' club sponsored by the W.I. came into being. These are both disbanded.

The Albert Community Organization was formed in 1971 and is still active in the community.



Saturday afternoon ball game, 1933.

Holding hat is Lew Hardy. Red Larson, Sid Pavely, Mel Prosser, David Currie, Leight Currie, Guy Strand, Allen Hardy, Freeman Prosser, Raymond Ramsay, Joe Landers, Freda Wright, Margaret Ramsay, Marion Ramsay, Edith Jones, Kathleen Barss, Peggy Fleming, Edith Ellwood, Gunny Johnson, Mrs. Bob Johnson.

He dreamed of all the things he'd do
were he full grown as dad.
But then a man, he dreamed anew
to be once more a lad.



Hockey game at George Hardy's yard south of Albert school.



Albert hockey team 1940 at rink south of Edgar Jones. Red Larson, Alan Larson, Claire Lukens, Herbie Larson, (?), Ken Matheson, Claude Ramsay, Percy Millar, Bob Lukens, Layton Barss.



Canadian Utilities power line being put in in 1946.



Albert Hockey Team in the season of 1939-40.



Buffalo Coulee neighbors repairing the telephone line in the 1940's.

April 21, 1942 ALBERT LOCALS

All who are interested in helping swell the Starving Childrens' Fund, for the Russian sufferers should attend the Entertainments which will be given in Albert school on the evening of May 3rd (Wednesday) under the auspices of the U. F. A. of Albert district by the Ross C. G. I. T. Club led by Mrs. Harry Lyster.

A good program will be presented including the short 3-act play called "Percival Perkins, Poet," or "The Bet" This little play was written by Miss Anna M. Walker, of Ross district and will be found amusing.

Will ladies kindly bring refreshments.

An admission of 25c for adults, and 15c for children between 10 and 15 years, will be charged. Count your blessings and encourage this effort to help the famine sufferers, as every cent taken in, will be turned over to the Starving Children's Fund.



Mrs. Victor Larson, Elsie Coulman, Mrs. Colin McLean, Mrs. Allan, Mrs. Brenda Lukens, Mrs. Maxine Larson, Mrs. Mary Barss, Donnie and Marian Lukens, Doris Barss, Matilda Jones, Lizzy Prior, Tid Hardy, Mrs. G. Matthews, Betty Parsons, Mrs. Clisdell, Vera Larson, Mrs. Leigh Currie, Mrs. Ivan Currie, Peggy Fleming, Mrs. J. Sr.

ALBERT STEAM ROLLERS

Irma Times - 1937

*In the Albert district there is a spot
Where there was built a store
And a hockey rink is on the dot;
The boys and girls have fun galore.*

*Three men of the district got together
A hockey team they say,
And decided no matter the weather
A practice or a game in the middle of the day.*

*the manager, Percy Miller,
From Manitoba he came;
Layton Barss like a graven pillar,
As secretary plays the game.*

*Ken Mathison, the captain,
Has selected his boys
To play the game or come again
And try to work like mechanical toys.*

*Clair Lukens, George and Calvin Urquhart,
One set of forwards in the team;
Now these three boys, they do their part;
On them the captain does beam.*

*Percy Miller and Barss, the defence,
These two players are not so hot;
While Mathison and Red Larson sit on the fence,
Waiting to come out on the spot.*

*The other change of forwards -
Larson, Lukens and Ramsay,
Are in the team the best guards,
So the watchers say.*

*Today the Orbindale team came over
To play a friendly game;
The Albert crew like Ralph the Rover
Decided to take the day or go lame.*

*The rink was small for Orbindale,
So the players were crowded all the while,
But the score told the tale
And the Albert team took it over with a smile.*

*Now if together the Albert crew stay
The puck to pass, shoot and see,
So they will make some day,
A hockey team - MAYBE.*

Organic

**Politicians are very like flowers, you know,
A fact which I'm sure you've detected,
For the very same stuff that makes posies grow
Is what helps those guys get elected!**

*Take responsibility on your shoulders and there'll be no
room for chips.*



Albert W.I. Mrs. Ellie Fleming, Betty Ramsay, Matilda Jones, Mame Kellar, Mrs. W.D. Ramsay, Marney Barss, Edith Grover, Eileen Prior, Beatrice Jones, Mrs. Meakins, Connie Kellar & Judy, Mrs. Jack Jones, Francis Prosser, Elsie McRoberts, Mrs. Prior Sr., Marjorie Haun and Charlotte, Rita Barss, Marion Lukens and Maureen, Vera Larson.

Betty's grandmother told her that they didn't have television when she was a little girl. The four-year-old was quiet for a moment, then said, "What did they turn off when you were bad?"



W.I. 1936 at Roy Hayes.

ALBERT BUSY BEAVERS GIRLS' CLUB

by Heather Barss, Marney Marss, Anne Jones

July 4, 1956 was the incorporation date of the Albert Busy Beavers Girls' Club, by Ruth Howes, president of Alberta Women's Institute and Mrs. Nita Swanson, supervisor of the Alberta Women's Institute Girls' Club. The parent organization was (and is) the Buffalo Coulee Women's Institute. The girls' supervisor must be a member of this W.I. Buffalo Coulee support the girls financially and assist in teaching crafts, preparing lunches and helping whenever called upon. Donations from other neighboring W.I.'s helped keep the girls' club financially sound.

The club was organized for young girls ages six to sixteen who wished to take an active part in their community. The main aims were to help young girls develop

into mature young ladies who are familiar with sewing, cooking, crafts and educational projects including record keeping and public speaking. They were required to complete a project in each of the following categories: Social Services, Health and Welfare, Citizenship, Education, Home Economics, Agriculture and Handicrafts. This is very similar to the Women's Institute Educational Programs. The Girls' Club motto is "For Home and Country".

Every girl was judged at each meeting according to behavior, effort, quality of work and dress. Their dress for meetings and conventions is a white blouse and a green skirt. Each girl wears a W.I.G.C. Crest. Their big achievement day was always an exciting day. This is when the final results are decided as to who gets to go to Olds for three or four days. Olds served as convention centre up until 1983 when the Girls' Club convention was held at Camrose.

The Albert Busy Beavers Girls' Club was supervised by Mrs. Edgar (Beatrice) Jones from 1956 until 1961. Some of the members during these first years were: Nina Herder, Peggy Winfield, Enid Jones, Yvonne Blanchard, Goldie Hunter, Evelyn Hardy, Madge Webb, Ruth Allen, Barbara Hardy, Laverne Larson, Lorna Prosser, Lilly Webb, Beverly Prior, Una Kellar, Gladys Faulkner, Yvonne Prosser, Janet Prior, Bobbyanne Kirkman, Gloria Barss, Valerie and Carol Webb and Ann Savage. Some of their activities during these years were collecting for U.N.I.C.E.F.; putting on a November tea and bazaar and an Easter tea; learning to knit and crochet; sending out get well gifts and cards; holding a doll and wardrobe raffle; skating parties; sponsoring rummage sales; starting plants from seeds; public speaking; held a variety concert and a sock and sweater dance. A lot of work! A lot of fun!

It was decided after the 1960-61 term to rest until a future date. After six years of resting the Club com-

menced again. A meeting comprised of mothers, daughters, leaders and the constituency convenor, who at that time was Mrs. E. Jones, was held at Albert School in September 1968. They decided to go under the same name and charter that they had had. Supervisors in 1968 were Mrs. Ron (Carol) Prior and Mrs. John (Barbara) Fleming, assisted by four mothers - Mrs. J. Stapleton, Mrs. R. Johnson, Mrs. Bruce Greenwood and Mrs. Everett Greenwood. Other supervisors of the girls' club until 1976 were Mrs. Harley (Marney) Barss and Mrs. Jayson (Jean) Ferguson. Some of the members during these years were: Lorraine Prosser, Debbie Lawson, Dorothy Hardy, Gwyneth Astley, Donna Jones, Loretta and Donna Prosser, Luella Hinton, Cindy Hardy, Cindy Smith, Lynette Barss, Karen and Sharon Bauer, Rita, Shirley and Theresa Greenwood, Lisa and Valerie Prosser, Dorienna Ermantrout, Rhonda Prosser, Gloria Pavely, Karen Johnson, Ann Crouse, Debbie and Diane Stapleton, Layle Hollar, Diane Fleming and Dixie Ferguson. Activities during these years were very similar to the previous years. Activities also included short stories, poetry, artwork, liquid embroidery, quick crafts, baking, pizza making, sewed slacks and public speaking.

The Club again disbanded in 1976 but only for a short period. It was reorganized in 1978 with Lynette Barss as leader, Mrs. Trevor (Ann) Jones and Mrs. Jim (Heather) Barss. Members during this period were: Lorry, Lottie and Diane Fleming, Kerri Larson, Debbie and Donna Pierce, Kari-Lynn and Michelle Jones, Shelly Larson, Danette Pierce, Rhonda, Penny, Edna and Doris Fleming, Tammy and Shawna Smithson, Stacey Williams, Vicky Kellar, and Teri Barss. Macrame and Christmas ornament bead work were introduced during this time. Other activities were very similar to the previous years.

As of 1982 the Club has been resting. Plans are being made to reorganize again in the near future. Although the road has been rocky and rough at times, the Club has had a memorable and enjoyable history. Much of the credit for organizing and reorganizing the Albert Busy Beavers must be given to Mrs. Beatrice Jones and it is in her memory that this history of the club is dedicated.



Albert Busy Beavers. Back Row: Carol Brown, Yvonne Blanchard, Enid Jones, Jean Faulkner, Evelyn Hardy, Marie Savage, Ann Savage. Middle Row: Janet Prior, Lucille Savage, Beverly Prior, Barbara Hardy, Una Kellar, Goldie Hunter, Doreen Allen. Front Row: Gloria Barss, Madge Webb, Sandra Guy, Peggy Windfield, _____, Irene Shippy.



Cindy Hardy won the cup 1968-69 in Public Speaking.



Cindy Hardy, Beatrice Jones, and Donna Jones at Olds Girls' Club Week in 1970.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pollock spent the holiday season at the home of their aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hardy. They have now returned to Edmonton where Mr. Pollock is attending University.

ALBERT SCHOOL

The first Albert School number 2358 was built in 1911 by William Smith on land donated by Mr. William Matthews. The district was originally called Zoldovara, but was changed to Albert after Alberton, Prince Edward Island, home of many district pioneers.

The first board consisted of Herbert Oakley, W.D. Ramsay and E.J. Jones. Miss Rooney Christenson, the first teacher, taught Pyles, Mitchells and Larsons.

In 1938 the first school was sold and a second one built by Ivan and Gerald Currie. This building stands today but for a time was part of Albert Centralized School. In 1954 Avonglen school was moved in and in 1955 a basement was dug between the two buildings so they could be joined to form a fully modern Albert Centralized School. Wilf Symington and Vance Shippy bussed students from Albert, Orbindale, Education Point, Lynx, Echo and Willowview districts to the central school.

In 1957-58 a record number of teachers - Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Landers, Miss Van Hyfte, Mrs. Meakins and Mr. Spornitz taught at Albert. A teacherage called the "Apple Box" was brought in 1955 but was replaced in 1959 by a larger one.

As the barn and coal shed were no longer needed they were sold and moved. A skating rink maintained by Tri-Way Association was built north of the school and provided a lot of entertainment for school and district.

In 1960 the school bus transported pupils from Albert district to Irma High School. Graduation exercises were held in 1961 for the last class of grade nine attending the Albert Centralized School. The following term saw the end of Junior High. From 1962 to 1969 just two rooms with Mrs. Astley and Mrs. Prior as teachers were in operation. The fall of 1969 saw the full closure of the school.

In 1971 the newly formed Albert Community Association purchased the school and made it into a community centre which is in full use today.

Northern Nuggets

Jan 10, 1947

Mr. Archie Fleming is considering building an addition to his house. As soon as the necessary lumber materials is available, he will undertake this project.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Allen were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hill and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Patterson and family were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Hardy.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Emmott and family, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Lukens and sons visited Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Ramsay on Sunday.

Mr. Arthur Hay of Mannville spent a week with Mr. Robin Johnson recently.

Holidays over, and routine back to normal, everyone's enjoying the extraordinary mild weather, at the time of writing.



Farmer organized district schools were built. In 1911 this little white schoolhouse was the first Albert school also used for church services.

Key - ▲ Original Homesteader (from Prov. Archives) ○ Original owner of non-homestead lands.					
Herbert Johnston 1912 H.A. Leming	Po. Marathon Realty	C.P.R. Po J.A. Hinton	Wm. R. McEwen Sept. 1909	Roy Wm. Hay July 1911	Po J.A. Hinton
▲ W.G. Mitchell Jan. 1910 Po J. Ferguson	▲ O.J. Vickery Jan. 1910 Po A. Fleming	Wm. D. Ramsay Nov. 1927 Po J.A. Hinton	Wm. D. Ramsay Nov. 1927 Po J.B. Ramsay	Wm. D. Ramsay Oct. 1910 Po J.G. Ramsay	Donald Ramsay 1911 Po J.C. Ramsay
▲ John G. Fleming Aug. 1911 Po J. Ferguson	▲ Wm. B. Murphy June 1913 Po A. Fleming	▲ L.H. Barss Nov. 1927 Po J.E. Fleming	▲ H.L. Hardy Dec. 1909 Po H. Fleming	▲ H.L. Hardy Dec. 1909 Po H. Fleming	▲ Frank McKenzie June 1910 Po J.L. Barss
C.P.R. Po H.A. Fleming	Po J.E. Fleming	▲ Joseph A. Fleming June 1910 Po A. Fleming	▲ Layton Barss Oct. 1908 Po J.L. Barss	C.P.R. Po J.L. Barss	Po R.A.D. Johnson
Po J. Ferguson	Po J.E. Fleming	▲ Johannis Wint. Apr. 1910 Po A. Fleming	▲ Fred Pile Oct. 1909 Po R.C. Johnson	Po R.A. Johnson	Po J. Ferguson
48-9-4					Po R.A.D. Johnson
▲ John A. Barss Sept. 1909 Po C.W. Barss	▲ H.J. Barss Sept. 1907 Po C.W. Barss	C.P.R. Po R.A. Johnson	Po J.L. Barss	▲ J.W. Matthews Apr. 1906 Po R.A. Johnson	▲ Fred E. Cail Apr. 1906 Po Gordon Ramsay
▲ Chas. Bjork Feb. 1914 Po Ronald L. Larson	▲ F.W. Pile Sept. 1913 Po Percy Millar (Est)	Po L.G. Jones	Po T.C.W. Jones	▲ Geo. W. Hardy Apr. 1906 Po H.W. Haun	▲ Arthur P. Matthews Nov. 1906 Po W.G. Maynes
C.P.R. Po Ronald L. Larson	Po L.G. Jones	Hudson Bay ▲ Orlef Smart Dec. 1909 Po L.G. Jones	Po Percy Millar (Est)	C.P.R. Po R.B. Haun	▲ Edward Cail Sept. 1907 Po A.E. Jones
Po Ronald L. Larson	Po C.K. Currie	Po C.K. Currie	Po John D. Lambert	Po R.B. Haun	▲ Hubert Oakley Sept. 1907 Po A.E. Jones
▲ Hugh Morrow May 1916 Po C.K. Currie	▲ Leigh Currie June 1916 Po C.K. Currie	C.P.R. Po C.K. Currie	Po R.B. Larson	▲ S.A.V. Rasmusen Larson Mar. 1910 Po B.M. Larson	▲ S.A.V. Rasmusen Larson Mar. 1910 Po T.C.W. Jones
▲ John I. Rae Oct. 1909 Po	▲ S.A.V. John C. Rae Oct. 1909 Po	Po F.I. Clisdell	Po C.K. Currie	▲ C. Victor Larson Aug. 1909 Po A. Fleming	▲ Fred Olson Feb. 1910 Po H.A. Fleming
					Po J.B. Ramsay

ALM7A.

47-9-4

47-8-4

Albert so 2358



Albert School 1917 or 19. Teacher Miss Mattie Anderson?



Albert boys in Indian hats.



Teacher - Miss K. Reeves (Mrs. C.L. Currie) and pupils at Albert School in 1918. Note the clothing style and bare feet.



Consolidated School at Albert in 1938.



Jack Jones family in the 1920's going to school in homemade cutter.



Albert School, Vance Shippy bus, June, 1958. Back Row: Bobby Ramsey, Erroyl Beckett, David Thomas, Clarence Hunter, Jim Allen, Lorna Prosser, Ruth Allen, Linda Hollar, Gladys Falkner, Goldie Hunter. Second Row: Ronnie Shippy, Dick Allen, Dannie Thomas, Tex Hollar, Billy Ramsay, Doreen Allen, Marvin Crouse, Christina Beckett, Tannis Beckett, Lawrence Hollar, Patsy Ramsay, Claudia Ramsay. Front Row: Brent Hollar, Claudia Hunter, Irene Shippy, Sheila Crouse, Alfie Fleming.

A NOTE TO A TEACHER

*Under another cover, I am sending you today
A merry little fellow, with a most appealing way.
He's never been away from me in all the years till now,
And it is hard to tear this leaf from the parental bough.*

*We know that you will smile at him, and by your kindness strive,
To show him life is pleasant for a little lad of five.
The hours will drag until I hear his footsteps on the stair,
And when he runs home everyday, I'll be waiting there.*

*I know you cannot love him, half so fervently as we,
But he has special qualities as very soon you'll see.
Who knows in the long years to come what wonders he will do,
Because when he was a small boy he went to school to you.*



Albert School Classes at Irma Track Meet in 1964. Back Row: Darlene Hollar, Maureen Lukens, Bill Holt, Lark Hollar, Greg Larson. Front Row: Rob Larson, Neil Prior, Patty Barss, Leigh Pierce.



Albert school pupils, 1952. Back Row, Left to Right: Hugh Fleming, Joan Fleming, Marjorie Matthew, Jean Fleming, Carol Matthew, Maurice Millar. Middle Row: Gordon Larson, Ruth Allen, Enid Jones, Jim Allen. Front Row: Roger Larson, Evelyn Hardy, Bobby Ramsay.



Teachers at Albert School June, 1960. Dorothy Schreyer, Darlene Veer (Lovig), Alice Fischer (Gleeson), Jean Larson.



Grade IX graduation at Albert School. Chrissie Beckett, Goldie Hunter, Wayne Larson and Mrs. Larson.



Grade Schoolers

At night, when they are home from school
 My problems always double —
 They beg and heckle, as a rule;
 They fuss, they dream up trouble!
 And, mornings, till it's time to go,
 They're underfoot, complaining
 And balking till it seems as though
 I've failed in all their training!
 But when they're set to leave, at last,
 I say goodbye and kiss them
 And then the hours go crawling past!
 Those little imps . . . I miss them!

— Ruth Chadwick

Albert School, June, 1957 - grades 7, 8 and 9, Teacher - Dorothy Schreyer. Back Row: Billy Blanchard, Jim Allen, Maurice Miller, Lorna Prosser, Jean Faulkner, Florence Landers, Marjorie Meyer, Nina Herder. Middle Row: Cecil Savage, Clark Smith, David Prior, Laverne Larson, Ruth Allen, Enid Jones, Linda Hollar. Sitting: Clarence Hunter, Toby Whitten and Arnold Brown.



Ruth Landers, Borghild Meakins, Jean Larson and Chester Spornitz.



Threshing at Bob Johnson's: Robin Johnson, John Barss, Freeman Prosser, Frank Matheson, Harley Barss.

BUFFALO COULEE W.I.

The Buffalo Coulee W.I. was formed on March 20, 1947 at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Ivan Hardy.

Mrs. E.C. McLean was District Convener at this time and the first instruments in setting up their own organization. The charter members were: Madam W.I. Ramsay, Claude Ramsay, Leigh Currie, William Mannewell, Janet Childs, E.B. Allen, Francis Lulan, Robert Lukens, Archie Fleming, Alex McRoberts, Edgar Jones, George Hardy and Ivan Hardy. Mrs. Ivan Hardy and Mrs. Claude Ramsay were the first president and secretary-treasurer.

This W.I. celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1972, with an anniversary meeting at the home of Mrs. Edgar Jones, to which former members and other W.I. ladies were invited.

On our thirty-fifth anniversary in 1982 we had a big celebration. We invited all former members and neighboring W.I. ladies and their husbands to a supper and evening of entertainment. We were very happy to have some new faces in our branch at that time. Younger members are also so welcome. They were Anne Jones, Heather Barrs, Diane Prior, Nina Keller and Shirley Childs.

After reviewing all the minutes for thirty-five years Anne Jones composed this poem for our history.

1. *We'd like you to come with us tonight
In a flash back of the past
To March 20th '47
Thirty-five years have gone so fast.*

2. *Picture a living room if you will
With thirteen ladies gathered round
Planning ahead into the future
To get our W.I. off the ground.*

3. *Our Constituency Convener was Mrs. Kate McLean
Who chaired the meeting and gave us a start,
Read us the by-laws, our aims and objectives
And led us in the Creed which we took to heart.*

4. *Our election of officers was a laugh
As elections seem to be
For when it came to taking office
None thought she had the quality.*

5. *We talked of days to have our meeting
The third Thursday they will be
We'll have a contest and a raffle
And charge a nickel for our tea.*

6. *On through the years our club still grew
'Til we were twenty-nine
We hosted cards and picnics
And had people out to dine.*

7. *On winter days we met to sew
Or quilt or knit or crochet
We saved each dollar, nickel and dime
Our many donations to pay.*

8. *Each month we had a supper
Each July we all picked ball
In August a float for the parade
And a bazaar was held each fall.*

9. *At times we had our troubles
Keeping officers for a year
A change seemed like someone expected
A new line bundle of cheer.*

10. *It quickly became a standing joke
Of our little W.I.
If you took on an office
You'd soon have diapers to dry.*

11. *Our meetings became quite hectic
As our families continued to grow
The children came to our meetings
As they had no where else to go.*

12. *Our annual meetings were always fun
When election time rolled around
We all had lots of excuses
And the discussion went round and round.*

13. *I can't be president this year
I've far too much to do
My five kids will keep me home
With sickness, colds and flu.*

14. *And I have too many chores to do
With cows to milk and such
I'm afraid the treasurer's job
Would be a little too much.*

15. *Now don't look at me, you know that I'm
The least reliable one here
I can't even manage my egg money
But how about you, my dear?*

16. *And then came our convention
A delegate to choose
Oh, surely you can get away
Come, what have you got to lose.*

17. *My hubby'll never let me go
He gets in such a snit
Why if I even as much as suggest it
I'm sure he'd have a fit.*

18. *Now come on girls we've got to choose
One of us must go
I know it's hard to get away
But I've gone twice you know.*

19. *Just think two days you'd be away
No kids to fight or scream
No dishes, meals or beds to make
It's almost like a dream.*

20. *On June 11th, 1956
Our girls' club came to be
Nine girls joined to serve
For Home and Country.*
21. *We're very proud of our girls' club
So dedicated and so dear
For six of them are great-granddaughter
Of women who formed the branch that year.*
22. *We miss twelve of our members
Who have bid us their last good-byes
But we know their hands still guide us
From their home up in the sky.*
23. *We've changed our dues from one dollar to three
A necessity of the time
Where tea was once a nickel
We now must pay a dime.*
24. *We still have a contest once a month
Our roll calls are much the same
We still swap plants and Christmas gifts
And drew - a mystery pal's name.*
25. *Marion is our birthday girl
A charter gal is she
And Kate McLean's daughter, Betty
Now convenes our constituency.*
26. *Frances and Grace joined in forty-eight
Eileen in forty-nine
Marney came in fifty-one
They've given a lot of time.*
27. *The rest of us are mere babies
We've not belonged for long.
From 1968 to 81
We've now become twelve strong.*
28. *Though our membership goes up and down
Varies from time to time
Each one has a special place
In our branch still in its prime.*
29. *We're happy to have you with us
So glad you could be here
To join us in celebrating
This our thirty-fifth year.*

At present, 1985, our membership has slipped again.
Eileen Prior is president, Heather Barss is secretary and
Diane Prior is treasurer. Our girls' club has disbanded.

Gimme a Break!

**There are so many TV commercials now,
And their increasing length is a factor . .
So that what used to be a station break
Is now a compound fracture.**

TO MY ANCESTORS

by Edna Jaques

*I do not know their pedigree
Their breeding or their worth,
But this I know - they gave to me
A love of common earth.*

*The smell of furrows brown and wet,
A love of sun and rain,
Their gardens sweet with mignonette
Will live with me again.*

*Every man needs a wife because too many things go
wrong that can't be blamed on the government.*



S.W.		S.E.		S.W.		S.E.		S.W.		S.E.	
<u>Po C.C.</u> 26 Archibald	<u>Po G.C.</u> Archibald	<u>Po R.</u> 25 Glover	<u>Po J.</u> Orcheski	<u>Po E.N.</u> McMillan	<u>Po W.H.</u> Parsons	<u>Po Geo.</u> Hipperson Nov 1927	<u>Po A.E. Ford</u>	<u>Po D. Haun</u>			
<u>Po C.C.</u> Archibald	<u>Po Wm.</u> Durand Dec 1905	<u>Po Duncan</u> Durand Jan. 1910	<u>Po J.A.</u> Orcheski	<u>Po Aykroyd</u> Co.	<u>Po Aykroyd</u> Co.	<u>Po J.C.</u> McLean May 1905	<u>Po C.</u> Firkus	<u>Po C.A.</u> Firkus			
<u>Po I Thur-</u> ston	<u>Po E.</u> Thurston	<u>Po C. Clifford</u> Toll Apr. 1907	<u>Po A.W.</u> Toll Apr. 1907	<u>Po J.D. Dunbar</u>	<u>Po W.</u> Renwick	<u>Po Woodruff</u> Clark July 1905	<u>Po J.D.</u> Dunbar	<u>Po A.</u> Fuscko			
<u>Po R.W.</u> Thurston	<u>Po Thos W</u> Shaw Jan 1905	<u>Po F.C.</u> Stephenson	<u>Po E.N. McMillan</u>	<u>Po J.H.S.</u> Armstrong Oct. 1907	<u>Po H.B.</u> Armstrong Oct. 1907	<u>Po I.R.</u> Tilley	<u>Po J.D.</u> Dunbar	<u>Po S.</u> Fuscko			
<u>Po Wm B.C.</u> Chamber- lain June 1907	<u>Po Wm H. P.</u> Wilson June 1907	<u>Po A.A.</u> Fischer	<u>Po Hamilton</u>	<u>Po R.M.</u> Harper March 1906	<u>Po R.C.</u> Williamson June 1905	<u>Po I.R.</u> Tilley	<u>Po A</u> Fuscko	<u>Po S</u> Fuscko			
<u>Po E. Thurston</u>		<u>Po Wm.</u> Dunbar	<u>Po E.N.</u> McMillan	<u>Po N.E. R.</u> McMillan	<u>Po W</u> Dunbar	<u>Po A</u> Fuscko	<u>Po W H King</u>	<u>Po L.B King (Br.)</u>			
<u>Po L.R</u> Jones	<u>Po Wm</u> Dunbar	<u>Po Wm.</u> Dunbar	<u>Po R.</u> McMillan	<u>Po N. Wilson</u>	<u>Po G.A.</u> Sissons & Co.	<u>Po N. McMillan</u>	<u>Po G.A.</u> Sissons & Co.	<u>Po G.A.</u> Sissons & Co.			
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<u>Po L.R.</u> Jones											

Key

▲ Homesteader
 C Original
 of non. Home
 P.L. - Present
 owner

■ School
 Site

P Present
 owner.

46-9-4 ALMA

← →

46-8-4

▲ - Homesteader
 O Original owner
 in non. Homestead
 Land

ALMA MATER S.D. No. 3160

THE ALMA MATER DISTRICT

The Alma Mater School District was not formed until a number of years after the first settlers came to the area. The school district was formed in 1917 when many of the children of the area had grown to school age and had to board away from home or travel quite a distance to attend school in other previously formed districts. The district was smaller than many of the previously formed districts and naturally took some land from the surrounding districts.

Early homesteaders and settlers who first opened up the area were the Burtons, Harpers, Williamsons, Armstrongs, Tolls, MacMillans, W. Clark, Watsons, Shaws, G.A. Walker, B. Chamberlain, Durands, B. Barber, J. McIlroy, J. Hammond, T. Wood, Wilson, Kings, Loves, Sissons and Telly.

These were the first to begin breaking land, fencing farms, and building roads. The first roads were prairie trails across unfenced land that took the shortest distance to the desired destination.

Other people came later buying out homesteaders, C.P.R. and Hudson Bay Land. Renwicks left the Education Point district and bought the Armstrong place where they built a big two-storey house that was a landmark in the district for many years. The Walker homestead was sold first to Craigs who enlarged the homestead house, to Malinsons, then to Carters, the last resident owners and is now owned by Joe Burton. These along with the Wilsons, Haydens, Stead, Inkins, Dunbars, Robertsons, McCarneys, Goodales, Jones and Fuscoks all contributed work, taxes, and talents to further the development of the district while their children added to the school population.

More land became fenced and more and better roads were built on road allowances with better road equipment. After the school was built, church services were held there and the young people of the district formed a club named the Alma Mater Merry Makers. These young people had fun together. They went on a number of picnic excursions and practised and put on several plays that brought in some revenue. This group bought a piano for the school that is now in the New Horizons Drop-In Centre. There was also a very active Ladies' Aid Society in the district.

With the introduction of power machinery many farmers began to enlarge their operations and bought land from smaller farmers and from homesteaders and gradually many older farm homes and buildings were either torn down or moved. Many of the former landmarks disappeared and with the increase in farm size the farm population of the district became much smaller.

Today the district has no school and fewer people. Descendents of the original settlers still living in the district are Burtons, MacMillans and Kings.

Mosquitoes are like children that are small, the moment they stop making a noise you know they are getting into something.



Alma Mater School where church services were held in the 1920's. Mrs. Janet Elliott and Mrs. Ida McCartney at door; Ellsworth Goodale, W. McCartney and J.H. Elliott standing at bottom of stairs.



Nina Young, first teacher at Alma Mater School, and Carrie Toll.

You might as well keep your temper, no one else wants it.



Group of ladies at Mrs. John Watson's home.



Watson's house with old "Mac" in foreground, 1924.

Picnic at John Watsons.



Left to Right: Will Elliott, Mrs. Watson, John Watson, J.H. Elliott, Mrs. McPherson, Essie Jenkins, Mrs. W. Elliott, Mrs. J.H. Elliott. Front Row: Les Elliott, Mr. McPherson, _____, Ethel Arnold, Edna Arnold, Stella Arnold, McPherson children, (others), taken at John Watsons.

A load of Alma Mater Merry-makers on the way to Clear Lake for a Sunday outing, taken at the A.A. Fischer farm.



SIMPLE THINGS

*Of all the things we know in life,
The things that pass the test,
It comes to us as we live on
The simple things are the best.*

*A winding road, a nice green field;
Upon the porch, a swing;
A family to cheer you on
Is the best of everything.*

*An orchard full of luscious fruit,
A garden full of beans,
Good friends at your fireside -
These are the simple scenes.*

*There's work involved - there always is -
But family's worth the trouble.
The simple things make life worthwhile
And let your pleasures double.*



Joe Burton playing for the Alma Mater hockey team.



Alma Mater teacher, 1928 - Queen Dutton, Ellsworth and Darlas Goodale.



Birthday at R. Patterson's approximately 1925. Back Row: Arlie Prosser holding Catherine (Patterson) Hardy, Olive Linley, ?, Dorothy Bramley-Moore, Orril (Fischer) Darling, Jean (McLean) Saville. Two at back: Mrs. R. Patterson and Mary Elliott. Seated: Edwin Elliott, Bill Patterson, Maxine (De Tro) Larson, Marney (Patterson) Cosford, Ann (Prosser) Goodale and Adelaide (Elliott) Dootson.

ALMA MATER SCHOOL

by Orril Darling

The Alma Mater School District No. 3160 northeast of Irma was formed in 1917 and the school was built in the late summer and fall of 1918. It was located on a small area on the northwest corner of S.W. 18-46-8, the homestead of Mr. Robinson Harper. The name chosen for the school was suggested, I believe, by Mr. Watkinson, a homesteader of the district and a long-time resident of Irma. Due to the fact that the school authorities were at this time considering consolidation, the building was somewhat delayed so the school did not begin operation until November 1, 1918.

The first trustees were Mr. Thomas Shaw, Mr. W.A. Burton and Mr. A.A. Fischer, with Mr. Robinson Harper as Sec.-Treas. Later Mrs. Carrie Toll was secretary for many years. For a number of years the trustees were Mr. W.A. Burton, Mr. Lance King, Mr. A.A. Fischer with Mr. Burton a secretary-treasurer. Later trustees were Mrs. M. MacMillan, Mr. J. Dunbar and Mr. J. Stead.

The Alma Mater School was one of the newer schools with a basement and a furnace and so was, perhaps, better heated. A large part of the basement was used as a play area in winter. Safety was not very well considered as the ashes from the furnace were shovelled into a large tub standing near the furnace unprotected. One day, while the pupils were playing in the basement, Alice Sisson was accidentally pushed forward and fell with her arms into the ashes among which were hot coals. The result of the burn was not too serious but the ashes were carefully covered from then on.

Alma Mater School was one of the six school districts that formed the Irma Rural Consolidated High School, the first of its kind in Alberta. This gave many of the pupils of these districts an opportunity to attend high school.

The teacher for the first three years was Miss Nina Young followed by Miss Nora McFarland, Miss Dillman, Mr. Cameron, Mrs. McDowell, Miss Queen Dutton, Miss Hazel Empey, Miss Marjorie Dutton (Mrs. George Fischer), Miss Bessie Hargreaves, Miss Lonelle Coffin, Mr. Vanderberg, Miss Cora Branchflower, Miss Louisa Barber (Mrs. Ervin Prosser), Miss Marion Hutchinson, Miss Verla Lind and Mr. Terry Ellwood.

Some of the first pupils who attended Alma Mater were Chris and Roy Burton, Clarence and Violet Renwick, Ruth (Brekon) King, Reba Coker (neice of the Shaws), George and Orril Fischer. Other former pupils still living in the area are Bill Inkin, Bill and John Dunbar, Molly Burton (Mrs. Ted Thurston), Joe and Don Burton and Steve Fucsko.

Sunday church services and Sunday School were held regularly for quite a number of years in the school. A young peoples' group named the Alma Mater Merry-makers was formed and continued active for quite a number of years. The young people enjoyed get togethers, excursions and picnics as well as enjoying practicing and performing several plays that delighted their audiences.

In 1949 the school was closed and the students were taken by bus to Irma. The school was purchased by the North Irma Community Association and with the former Ross School formed the North Irma Community Hall. This functioned as a community centre for a number of years. The grade eight room in the Irma School was named Alma Mater after the district and school.

Thanks for much of the above information goes to Mrs. W.A. Burton, Mrs. Bill Dunbar and the late Neil MacMillan.



First teacher and class at Alma Mater School. Back Row: Mrs. Nina Young - Teacher, Ruth Brekon, Gladys and Dorothy Renwick, Reba Coher, Isabel Watson, George Fischer, Clarence Renwick. Second Row: Roy Burton, Chris Burton, George Watson, Carmen Schaeffer, Orril Fischer, Violet Renwick.



Mr. and Mrs. Ed McDowell in car, on the hood: Helen McDowell, Dorothy Burton, Earl Goodale, Irvin Goodale, Bill Kelm. Back Row: Albert Goodale, Cora Goodale, Margaret Newberry, Violet Renwick, Orril Fischer, Alice Sisson, Gladys Ambler. Front Row: Roy Burton, Susie Ambler, Molly Burton, Robert Kelm, Herbert Kelm, Joe Burton, George King, Bobby Wilson, Leslie Goodale.



Alma Mater School. Back Row: Cora Goodale, Violet (Renwick) Jones, Bill Kelm, Alice Sisson, Mrs. McDowell - teacher, Gladys Ambler, Orril (Fischer) Darling, Albert Goodale. Middle Row: Irvin Goodale, Bobby Wilson, Earl Goodale, Herbert Kelm, Margaret Newbury, Dorothy Burton, Roy Burton, Leslie Goodale. Front Row: Susie Ambler, Helen McDowell, Joe Burton, Molly Burton, Robert Kelm, George King.



Nina Young, teacher, and some of the crowd for a Christmas party at Alma Mater school.



Alma Mater School: Geoffrey Inkin, Leslie Elliott, Marjorie Dutton - teacher; Lily Inkin, Tiny Inkin, Dora Jones.



Alma Mater School 1928. Back Row: Earl Goodale, Violet (Renwick) Jones, Dorothy Burton, Irvine Goodale. Second Row: Marjorie (Molly Burton) Thurston, Joe Burton. First Row: Annetta (MacMillan) Maguire, Philip Inkin, Bill Inkin, Connie (Burton) Kellar and Gwen (Burton) Newman.

LITTLE THINGS

*If any little word of mine
May make a life the brighter,
If any little song of mine
May make a heart the lighter,
God help me speak the little word
And take my bit of singing,
And drop it in some lonely vale
To set the echoes ringing.
If any little love of mine
May make a life the sweeter,
If any little care of mine
May make a friend's the fleeter,
If any little lift may ease
The burden of another,
God give me love, and care, and strength
To help my toiling brother.*

LITTLE THINGS

Oh, it's just the little homely things
The unobtrusive, friendly things,
The "won't you let me help you" things
That make our pathway light.
And it's just the jolly, joking things,
And "never mind the trouble" things
The "laugh with it, it's funny" things
That make the world seem bright.
For all the countless, famous things,
The wondrous record-breaking things,
The "never can be equalled" things
That all the papers cite,
Are not like little human things,
The "just because I like you" things,
That make us happy quite;
The "done and then forgotten" things
That make life worth the fight.

AVONGLEN DISTRICT

Early settlers of the district were: Mr. Brown who homesteaded on the S.W. 12-47-8. He came from Idaho in a covered wagon in 1906. Francis Ford, father of George and Francis Jr. came in 1908 from South Wales as did William and Monte New.

Around 1908 many settlers came, among them Abel Oldham, a cousin of Ben although he returned to Ontario. Jack Sawdon, Roy Shotts, Mac Morrison, Lymburner, Tom Slipper, Bill Hershey and Joe Carrington were others that were among the settlers who came, as well as Henry Prothero whose wife was remembered as a violinist. Wes Parson's grandfather Pearce, and his dad George, both homesteaded in the Avonglen district on the land now owned by Jack Ballentine.



Picnicking at Fabyan by the river: Elsie Whitely, Dolly New, Katherine Johnson, Mrs. James Thomson, Mrs. R.L. Shotts, Mrs. Walter Gray, Jessie Ballentine.



Sunday picnic at King's Park, Fabyan - Maurice Johnson, Jack Ballentine, Joe MacBarn, Charlie Younker.

March 24, 1922 AVONGLEN NEWS

Distance or bad roads make very little difference when Avonglen puts on a concert, such at least was the case on March 17th when Miss McTavish with the pupils and aid of some local talent put on a concert second to none. The school was hardly large enough for this occasion and from all appearance the pupils from far and near seemed to be having the best time ever. The program lasted two hours. So many requests came in for a second rehearsal of the play "Sue's been to dinner" that the chairman called the pupils for that a second time. The violin solo by Mrs. Prothero was excellent. Miss Bessie Barker gave a vocal solo in her usual pleasing manner. After the program, the raffling of the quilt made by the ladies of the district took place. Messrs J. Dalton, G. Pollard, C. Rittle and J. Bejan were called on to conduct the raffle and did their work to the satisfaction of all concerned. The lucky parties were: Quilt to Harold Conelly, of Salteaux, Sofa Cushion to Tom Slipper, Avonglen, Pin Cushion to Mr. Hostrup, Irma Tea Apron to Geo. Pheasy, Salteaux, Neck Tie to Miss Grace Barnes, of Viking, Pocket Comb to Mrs. R. Henry, Orbindale, Mirror to Florence Allen, Slipper Case to Wm. Wold, Irma Hair Brush to M. Hamilton. After the raffle lunch was served, then the stage and seats were removed and all lovers of the light fantastic tripped to the music of violins and organ until the "wee sma' hours."

The proceeds of raffle and concert were \$104.05, the total expenditure of Quilt and music etc., was \$19.05 earning the neat sum of \$85.00 to be paid on the organ. This brings the fund up to \$112.50 leaving a balance of \$54.55 yet to be paid.

The people of the district wish to thank all who helped to make this a real success and especially Mrs. Prothero, Miss Barker and Earl Prior for their part on the program.

Mr. Sawdon took his daughter Miss Eavenia to Edmonton on Monday to have another operation performed on the limb that was injured some years ago. We hope to see her back again much improved.

Miss Bessie Barker is visiting with Mrs. S. M. New the past week.

The Misses Grace and Mary Barnes of Viking, who have been visiting at the home of their uncle J. Carrington returned to their home on Tuesday.

THE AVONGLEN JUNIOR U.F.W.A.

by Margaret Shotts Clifford

In the early thirties Mrs. Rhoda D. (Jesse) Allen was the leader of a group of district area girls. We always met at Mrs. Allen's home or at Avonglen School. We had a creed, roll call, discussed farm topics, did crafts, played games and sang lively songs and had lunch. These meetings were a worthwhile social and educational experience similar to 4-H today.

Mrs. Allen was an exceedingly capable multi-talented woman and very community oriented. She was interested in people and was a friend indeed at times of illness and sorrow. She wrote Avonglen News for the Irma Times too.

I remember when we Juniors were out playing a group game in Avonglen School yard one hot summer day, a sudden storm came up. A sudden flash of lightning struck in our midst shaking the ground. We were badly frightened but were all safe and sound.

Mildred Carrington remembers being given Shetland pony rides at Allens and being warned by the Allen boys that the cute pony liked to brush off its rider if one rode too near the fence. Ruby Carrington (MacMillan) recalls that at one meeting she was the only girl with a prepared roll call and was made to feel proud by Mrs. Allen.

Some Junior girls included Mildred and Ruby Carrington, Margaret and Doris Shotts, Irene Lambert and Evelyn Mansfield, to name a few.



Avonglen Ladies Club: Doris Shotts, Cynthia Nottingham, Mrs. R.L. Shotts, Margaret Shotts, Mildred Oldham, Ken, Cynthia Ballentine, Dolly New, Elsie Whitely, and Florence, Jessie Ballentine.



Gene Allen, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Shotts, Mrs. Carrington, Mrs. Rhoda Allen, Mrs. Mary Lambert, Mrs. Lena Goodwin, Mrs. Rose Meyer.

AVONGLEN NEWS

March 17, 1922

The New Organ for Avonglen school arrived on Tuesday and improves the appearance of the large class room very much. It is a six Octave Piano Case and one the district may well be proud of. Much credit is due Miss McTavish, as, only for her untiring efforts this instrument would still have been an object in the far distant future. Annie Ford and Earl Carrington started school on March 6th. This brings the enrollment up to 16.

The roads owing to the thaw are becoming very poor for grain handling.

F. Ford finished loading his car of oats on Wednesday.

Mr. G. Arnold had the misfortune to have his sleigh upset with a four horse load of grain.

Only two tenders for wood for the school were received, they being \$32 and \$25. The Board accepted the \$25 tender. Mrs. F. Ford has been ill the past week, we are glad to know she is up and around again.

Mr. Sawdon had the misfortune have one of his horse get its leg broken.

IF FARMERS WENT ON STRIKE

*I wonder what it would be like
If all the farmers went on strike
And just refused to plant a seed
Or prune a tree or pull a weed.*

*And went on strike for better pay
Or shorter hours for his day,
That really lasts from sun to sun
And yet his work is never done?*

*And what would hungry people eat,
If prairie farmers grew no wheat,
And raised no hogs or lambs or beef
And just went living on relief?*

*Starvation, ruin and disgrace
Would stare the whole world in the face,
I know that's what it would be like
If farmers really went on strike.*

AVONGLEN SCHOOL

The School District of Avonglen Number 3975 was organized in 1920. Members of the first school board were: Mr. Jesse Allen, Mr. Joseph Carrington and Mr. Burton Haun. Mrs. R.D. Allen acted as the secretary-treasurer.

This tender was taken from the Irma Times of April, 1921.

TENDER FOR VAN DRIVER

Sealed Tenders will be received by the Board of Trustees of Avonglen S.D. No. 3975 at the office of the Secretary-Treasurer up to noon, April 25th, 1921 for a van driver with team to convey the pupils of the above district to another school, distance not to exceed sixteen miles per day. Duties to begin on May 2nd, 1921. Agreement to terminate on the last teaching day in December, 1921 or until such time as the Avonglen School house will be ready for use.

Other information required may be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer N.E. 34-46-8.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
Signed.

R.D. Allen, Sec. Treas.
P.O. Irma, Alta.

Dated this 7th day of April, A.D., 1921.

The school was built the following summer of 1921 on a corner of land purchased from Burton Haun, on the corner of S.W. 2-47-8. The school was built at a cost of three thousand dollars by Mr. James Craig Sr.

School opened on October 1st, 1921 with Miss Nellie McTavish of Edmonton as the first teacher. Some of the original students who attended Avonglen were: Gladys Haun; A.E. Haun, (Buck); John Haun; Maynard, Delbert and Florence Allen; Helen Ballentine; George and Frank Ford; Arnold girls, the Shott girls and John, Killian, and Donald Goodwin.

Some of the Avonglen pupils had attended Passchendale, Orbindale or Roseberry schools before their own district school was ready.

The name Avonglen was chosen from a number of suggestions after consultation with both the ratepayers and the Department of Education.

Among the teachers who followed Miss McTavish were: Lola Mabey; Dorothy Bramley-Moore; Marjorie Bennett; Olive Rush (Mrs. Sather); Orril Fischer (Mrs. Darling); Mrs. Murray; Mrs. C.M. Ballentine; Miss Bates; Miss Anne Kippen and Miss Lily Lakusta and Cliff Shelton who taught in 1941, then Ann Coulman supervised in January, February and March of 1942. Miss Agnes Grieve taught from 1942-43 to 1944-45; Mary Prosser 1945-46; Kathleen Younker 1946-47; Miss Louise Best 1947-48 and Kathleen Younker again 1948-49; 1949-50; then Keith Wakefield taught until the school board closed the school in 1952. Some of the school inspectors were: Mr. L. Good; Mr. H.T. Coutts and S.D. Simonson.

Later school board members were: William New; A.E. Haun; William Goodwin; John Ballentine and Gerald Allen.

There was always some entertainment at Avonglen school. Dances to raise funds for Red Cross, pick up ball games, picnics and bazaars to raise money to help pay for the orchestras, picnic supplies and concerts.

The Avonglen Gospel Mission held church services at the school where everyone was invited to attend church.

In 1944 to 1948 the schools would take Friday afternoon and go to the surrounding schools to practise ball so they would be prepared to enter the games meet in Irma the end of May or the first part of June. Then the final winners of the Irma day would go to Wainwright where they would compete against the winners of the surrounding Wainwright school districts. The games meet was a very big day for all students involved.

The schools were very cold in the winter and very warm in the summer. You would light the fire at eight in the morning and it would start to warm up by nine. Many times the students would pull their desks as close to the heater, or furnace register as they could and still have the heat circulate. The inkwells or bottles would be frozen and you would hold them in your hand until they thawed out enough so you could use your pen.

The outhouses were out on the far corner of the playground, boys on one corner and the girls on the other. You sure didn't waste much time out there at minus thirty degrees. The teachers knew you would be right back.

In the year 1952 Avonglen school was closed and the pupils were bussed to Passchendale Consolidated school (the old Irma high school). When Passchendale was closed in 1959 the majority of the Avonglen students were bussed to Irma by the late Mr. Frank Ford. Some of the students on the registers were: Barbara, Marvin, Laura and Joyce Bartee; Eric, June and Edna Dallow; Garry Goodale; Harry, Martha and Bob Goodwin; Irene, George and Darwin Lambert; Francis, Gerald, Fred, Alfred, Eileen, Marie, Rita, Oscar and Clair Meyer; Elsworth (Dub) Allen as well as his children Charles, Florence, Carol and Doug Allen, and Gerald Allen's family, Doris, Carleen, Jesse and Lowell.

Other children were transferred from Passchendale, Alma Mater and Education Point because at times their home school had no teacher. Later attendants were: Lily Cooper; Hughena and Douglas Glover; Donald Haun; Eugene Jr., Irene and Catherine Meyer; Harry and Lloyd Moore; Marjorie and Arnold Schieck.

A notation in the March, 1951 register "Terrible storm March fifth to ninth, snow covered the telephone lines" (no underground lines then). Needless to say the school was closed those days.

The Avonglen school building however still performed a valuable service as the church of the Avonglen Gospel Mission until it was moved to the Albert district to become the east room of the four-roomed school at Albert. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ford have purchased and built a home on the original Avonglen school site.



Edward, John and Gladys Haun going home from Avonglen school, 1925.



Boys in Christmas play at Avonglen. Back Row: Frank Ford (Santa Claus), Dub Allen, John Goodwin, Earl Carrington. Front Row: Eric Nottingham, _____.



Girls in Christmas play. Mildred Carrington, Cynthia Nottingham, Margaret Shotts, Ethel Arnold, Annie Ford, Mary Cooper.

SCHOOLHOUSE ON THE HILL

*On top of a hill where the cold winds blow
Stood a schoolhouse faded and old.
The catches were gone from the window and door,
The furniture was cracked from the cold.*

*The porch door swung with a dismal groan,
Its hinges were nearly gone.
A breath of wind, with a lonesome moan,
Threw it back, but it still hung on.*

*The barn is gone, the cold snow falls,
The school looked lonely and drear,
But the foundation was firm and so were the walls,
Where within had been hearts full of cheer.*

*For within these walls at the top of a hill,
In a world set apart each day,
The spirit of comradeship, love and good will
Prevailed in a most special way.*

*You say a schoolhouse was terribly dull
You say it was a place of hard work,
It was also a place your heart could be full
And sadness had no place to lurk.*

*If you are weary and filled with despair,
And you feel your life has been cruel,
Think of that schoolhouse - it was just over there
The one where you once learned the rule.*

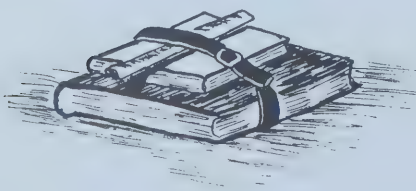
*You'll find it will bring back those memories still,
Of that youth of your own long ago
When you went to the schoolhouse on top of the hill,
And played fox and geese in the snow.*



Avonglen School about 1924. Back Row, Left to Right: Buck Haun, John Haun, Maynard Allen, George Ford, Dub Allan, Frank Ford. Front, Left to Right: Annie Ford, Gladys Haun, Florence Allen, Doris Ford.



Avonglen school children - 1932. Back Row: Emma Cooper, Doris Ford, Marian Carrington, Killian Goodwin, _____, Frances Meyer, Gerald Meyer. Front Row: Cooper, Doris Shotts, Ruby Carrington, Fred Meyer, Donald Goodwin, _____ Cooper, Bobby Cooper.



EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL U.F.A. SONG - 1919

contributed by Mrs. A. E. (Alice) Lymburner

I.

*Stick to your farms people are saying;
Be good and don't be led astray.
From our old trail surely we're straying -
They say we've left the good old way.
Our man to Ottawa we're sending
We care not what the critics say;
The old time plank is surely bending -
Then don't forget Election Day.*

CHORUS:

*Steadily march along - the battles just commencing.
We fight for equal rights for one and all;
And if united there is nothing now preventing
The stronghold of the enemy shall fall.
Our city friends we gladly too will welcome,
Then join us in the fight both one and all,
For the time is drawing nigh
When we'll have to say good bye
To a government that will not work for all.*

II.

*To everyone duty is calling,
Don't say you've no part in the fight.
A brighter day soon will be dawning
If everyone will do his might.
United then we fear no failing -
We'll let the world know what we say;
And then we'll have some great rejoicing
When comes the next Election Day.*

NOTE: Sung at a U.F.A. Rally at Avonglen School-house.

RECIPE FOR SPRING

*Take half a dozen robins, some bluebirds - three or four,
At least one gallant mockingbird to sing outside your door;
A carpet of green velvet, with patterned flowers gay,
The graceful fronds of willows that swing and die and sway;
Some glowing green of maples, a bit of dogwood's white,
The purple-pink of rosebud from dawn-time's glowing light;
The rippling of a brooklet, the splendor of the sky,
The haunting scent of lilac, some fleecy clouds on high;
A breeze to whisper gay nothings in your ear,
To offer sweet caresses for only you to hear.
And if you'll stir them gently, and mold them in your heart,
Until the sight and sound of them is of yourself a part;
You'll have the sweetest springtime that ever you have known,
Though everyone may share it, it still will be your own.*

AVONGLLEN NOTES

An unusual type of program was presented by the teacher, Mrs. Ballantine, at Avonglen school recently, with the mothers of the pupils and some friends as guests.

The first part of the program was given by the pupils of Div. 1 and 2 in a demonstration of their Enterprise work with suitable recitations and full explanation of the work by the pupils in turn. This was very interesting and showed careful training and ability on their part.

The second part, a debate by grades 7 and 8, with Killian Goodwin as chairman, "Resolved that the Rural School should be used as a community centre." The affirmative side upheld by Donald Goodwin and Gerald Meyer, the negative by Ruby Carrington and Doris Shotts, the girls winning by several points.

There was also a splendid display of art and needlework, etc., by the senior pupils, including grade ten.

Refreshments were served and a very pleasant afternoon brought to a close.



Avonglen students and some parents in 1938-39. Back Row: Mrs. Carrington, Mrs. R.L. Shotts, Ruby Carrington, Marie Meyer, Doris Shotts, Gerald Meyer, Killian Goodwin, Mrs. Linus Meyer, Irene Lambert, Eileen Meyer, Thomas Goodwin, Cynthia Ballentine (teacher), Evelyn Mansfield, Mildred Carrington, Margaret Shotts, Hilda Carrington, Martha Goodwin, Mildred Oldham, George Lambert and Oscar Meyer.

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields, and
Until we meet again, may God hold you in the
palm of His hand.

*The only thing that children wear out faster than shoes
are parents and teachers.*

*When the grandchildren visit their grandparents, it is the
happiest day in the grandparents' life. The only day that
is happier is when they go home.*





Avonglen School in 1942 - students: Martha Thomas, Harry and Bob Goodwin, Irene, George and Darwin Lambert, Marie, Eileen, Oscar, Rita and Clair Meyer, Edna, June and Eric Dallow, Dorothy Dalton.



Avonglen School 1948. Front Row: Leslie Ballentine, Carole Allen, Lowell Allen, Harry Moore, Dennis Worthing, Joy Worthing, ? Glover, Esther Allen, Donnie Haun, Flo Allen, Doris Allen, Jesse Allen, Violet Worthing, Carlene Allen, Charlie Allen, seated Eugene Meyer.



Avonglen School in the spring of 1944 or 1945. Back Row: Oscar Meyer, Martha Goodwin, Dorothy Dalton, Rita Meyer, Bob Goodwin, Doris Allen, Carleen Allen. Front Row: Hughena Glover, and Jesse Allen.



Parents and children who attended church service at Avonglen School, 1942.

TROUBLES

*The good Lord sends me troubles
And I have to work them out,
But I look around and see
That there's trouble all about,
And when I see my troubles
I just look up and grin,
And count up all the troubles
That I'm not in.*

BLUEBIRDS IN SPRING

They came, like children, with a happy shout,
And perched on posts and fences, all about;
It seemed as if they stopped and called to me;
"Hello there!," just as happy as could be!

The snow still hid the earth, — their blue wings bright,
Contrasted so against this background white!
Where could they forage? Came the thought to me;
But they just scampered round in merry glee!

My tired heart woke to hear their happy song;
— The snow would go before so very long —
What had they seen? Where had they gone to roam?
To bring such radiant hearts and spirits home!



Building pyramids at Avonglen School. Left standing on hands: Jesse Allen; lying on backs: Irene Younker and Bob Goodwin; Catherine Meyers on hands; standing on knees: Hughena Glover, Irene Meyer; in middle is Doris Allen, and on Doris' shoulders is Doug Glover. Note the swings and the outhouse.



Taken at Avonglen School in 1938. Standing at Back: Mrs. Carrington, Mrs. Shotts. Second Row: Ruby Carrington, Marie Meyer, Doris Shotts, Irene Lambert, Gerald Meyer, Eileen Meyer, Killian Goodwin, Thomas Goodwin, Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Ballentine. Third Row: Mrs. Hilda Carrington holding Patsy, Rita Meyer, Evelyn Mansfield, Mildred Carrington, Margaret Shotts, Martha Goodwin, Mrs. Mildred Oldham. The boys in front are: Clair Meyer, Darwin Lambert and Oscar Meyer.

Sure kids brighten up the home. They never turn off the lights.

One of the hardest things to give away is kindness; it somehow keeps coming back.



Avonglen students - 1940-41: Fred, Marie, Eileen, Oscar and Rita Meyer, Martha Thomas, Harry and Bob Goodwin, Irene, George and Darwin Lambert, June, Edna and Eric Dallow, Dorothy Dalton.

An oldster, wise in the ways of the world, gives this counsel for living to a ripe old age:

*Worry less, play more. Ride less, walk more.
Frown less, smile more. Eat less, chew more.
Waste less, save more. Preach less, do more.*

LET'S BE THANKFUL

*When we think we've cause to grumble,
Things go wrong, the skies are grey,
And our plans have gone a tumble,
Nothing's right, the whole long day.*

*Let's remember then the first thing that seemed so dreadfully bad,
Let's thank God it wasn't a worse thing,
And for that, we can be glad.*

*Life will take a different meaning
If we're thankful all day long.
If on Christ our faith is leaning,
Instead of tears, let's praise with song.*

*So today when troubles hound us,
Let's thank Him things are not worse,
And tomorrow we'll have found Him
Then each wrong is in reverse.*

*If each day we stop and thank Him
For each blessing we receive,
We will find wrongs will grow slim,
If in God we do believe.*

▲ Wm. Horner Sept 1912 Po J. A-mitaga	▲ Ruben Snyder Oct 1912 Po A.F. Oracheski.	C.P.R. Po Holt Colony	▲ Frank Horner July 1912 Po C.C. Holt	▲ James Brown Dec. 1912 Po L. Mark	C.P.R. Po L. Mark	Po →
▲ Victor Snyder Oct 1912 Po A.F. Oracheski	Po Holt Colony	Po	▲ Jas. Lockhart Oct 1911 Po C.C. Holt	▲ W.R. Lockhart Aug. 1912 Po C.C. Lockhart	Po J. Mark →	Po
Po L.M. Oracheski	▲ Chas. Hopper May 1915 Po A.F. Oracheski	▲ John Theroux Apr. 1909 Po L. Oracheski	School Land Chas. L. Lockhart 1927 Po J.A. Oracheski	Land Ow. R. Lockhart 1927 Po C.C. Lockhart	▲ Earl T. Denison Oct 1916 Po C.C. Lockhart	▲ Fred Snyder 1913 Po Holt Colony
Po L.M. Oracheski	▲ George Theroux Apr. 1909 Po A.F. Oracheski	▲ Harvey Denison June 1906 Po L. Oracheski	Chas. L. Holt 1927 Po J.A. Oracheski	Po H.G. Smith	▲ Edgar Keebler July 1909 Po C.C. Lockhart	▲ Wallace Parriott 1914 Po Holt Colony
▲ Lars Haginson Feb 1929 Po Mike	▲ Harry Bick Sept 1915 Po Oracheski	C.P.R. Po Holt Colony	▲ Wilfred Ogilvie Dec. 1906 Po H.G. Smith	▲ Chas. G. Keebler Dec. 1907 Po H.G. Smith	Po H.A. Smith	Po Holt Colony
▲ H. Carleton July 1914 Po Mike Oracheski	▲ John Pearce July 1914 Po m.m. Oracheski	Po Mike Oracheski	▲ G.G. Bate Oct. 1905 Po C.C. Holt	▲ Wm. H. Freed 1905 Po Holt Colony	Po	Po
Correction Line						
▲ Jas. Murray Nov 1906 Po	▲ Joseph Murray Feb. 1907 Po	C.P.R. Po M.C. Oracheski	Syndicate - McDougall Secord had the Patent 1906 Po Holt Colony	Po C.C. Holt	Po Holt Colony	Po L. Mark
▲ Thos. Lockhart July 1911 Po A.L. Whidden	Po A.L. Whidden	Po M.C. Oracheski	Syndicate - McDougall Secord 1906 Po Holt Colony	Po C.C. Holt	Po Holt Colony	Po L. Mark
School Land Grazing Permt. to A.O. over 60. Mar. 1924 Po E. Helin →	▲ Harold A. Whidden Apr. 1905 Po A.L. Whidden	▲ Jas. A. Lennox July 1906 Po Calvin Gould	C.P.R. Po Calvin Gould	Po C.C. Holt	Hudson Bay L.M. Burr	Po C.P.R.
▲ David Whidden Pickard Po A.L. Whidden	▲ Arthur Pickard July 1906 Po Calvin Gould	W.H.L. Po Bridgeman	Po J. Mark	Po J.K. Lingley	Po L.M. Burr	Po

▲ Homesteader - information from Prov. Archives

○ original owner of non-homestead land

Po Present owner

■ School Site

Batt sd 1960

BATT COMMUNITY

The Batt community is located north of Jarrow. Settlers were attracted early to the fine land in what later became known as the Batt Valley. The beautiful countryside was all open with hardly any trees. The settlers had to haul their wood from south of Jarrow. The main source of transportation was oxen team, saddle horse or team and wagon on prairie trails. Some roads were built around 1920 to 1927, by then there were a few cars. Prairie fires were a great concern to the settlers. For a period of three or four years there seemed to be one every year either spring or fall. Everyone had their buildings and feed stacks fire guarded but some stacks were burned regardless. The loss of pasture was the greatest concern.

Some of the early settlers who settled as early as 1906, were Geo. Batt (now Clifton Holt's farmland); Harvey Denison where Alfred Oracheski now lives; B.C. Loring, J. Lennox, now Calvin Gould's; Edger Kiebler, now owned by Tobe Smith; H.E. Haynes (Brian Burr land); David Whidden, W. Lockhart, Sam Murray, John and George Theroux, Carl Ahlf, Harold A. Whidden.

Other residents remembered well were Mrs. Snyder and her three sons who came to the area in the late teens or early twenties. The boys Rube, Vic and Fred, along with their mother lived on the S.E. 16-47-10. Mrs. Snyder lived to the ripe old age of ninety-three years, after her passing the boys stayed until failing health forced a move. The land was later sold as an estate sale by the Public Trustee. Fred Snyder is well remembered as a very fine ball player. He had been a professional baseball player in the U.S.A. before coming to Canada.

Another couple who lived in the district for a time were Mr. and Mrs. Cy Kennedy, a gentleman who loved horses, always drove a matched team of well fed and groomed animals.



Batt Sunday School about 1930: John Moore, Elmer Ahlf, Mrs. Earl Moore, Elva Lindberg. Front Row: Elsie Theroux, Hazel Moore, Asta Lindberg, Goldie Baker.



Batt Sunday School about 1930: Henry Lindberg, Lenore Ahlf, Mrs. Leslie Moore, Jean Whidden, Gordon Whidden. Front Row: Mary Ahlf, Donald Moore, Genon Theroux.



Mr. and Mrs. D. Whidden, Mabel Cox, Tina Whidden, Mr. Cox, Karl Whidden, Ruth and Ruby, March, 1912.



Going to school.

BATT SCHOOL

The Batt school was built in 1908 by Lambey and Rainie. It was kept open only four or five months in the summer due to lack of funds. Most of the children walked to school for the first years. Eventually all families had a saddle horse to ride or to pull a buggy or sleigh, making transportation easier. Often the eight-stalled barn was full to overflowing.

The first teacher was an English girl, Miss Robinson, who boarded at the Dennison home. In 1911 eleven children were attending school namely: Karl, Ruby and Ruth Whidden, Stanley Lennox, Marion Haynes, Ezra, Lydia and Pearl Dennison and Paul, Amelia and Esther Loring.

In 1913 Miss Rutherford was the teacher and boarded at the Loring home as had Miss Taite and Mr. Hull. In 1914 Miss McGuire taught three Bridgemans, four Loring, three Denisons, five Andersons, two Lennox, Marion Hayes and Lester Brown.

Until the Lynx and Echo schools were built some of their pupils attended Batt. in 1918 E.M. Ross was teacher. The school was closed in the 1918 influenza epidemic by the Minister of Education. It opened in 1920 with Alice Marshall as teacher.

Teachers in later years include: Lila Wright, Viola Good, Beatrice Webb, Barbara Cairns, H.E. Robinson, D.E. Peterson, Mrs. G. Theroux, Gladys Bowen, Nan Kennedy, Irene Ross and Emma Johnson.

The original school was destroyed by fire in 1940. School was held at the Carl Ahlf house until the new building was ready.

Teachers in later years were Mrs. Earl Burr, Mary Mansfield, Peggy McPeak, Mrs. Ralph Mark and Mrs. Bill Meakins. The highlights of the year were the Christmas Concert and school picnic.

Dances, basket socials, card parties and plays were put on for entertainment. Church services were held in homes until the school was built.

Inspectors signing the registers include: J.W. Russell, J. Fowler, M.O. Nelson, W.H. Swift, L. Good and H.J. Coutts.

Chairmen of the schoolboard include: Carl Ahlf, H.S. Dennison, William Bridgeman, Ezra Dennison and V. Lindberg, while secretaries include: H.B. McCully, Earl Moore, L.L. Moore and G. Bridgeman.



Batt School, 1924. Back Row: Orville Baker, Earl Baker, Merle Grant, Willie Theroux, Johnny Theroux, Teacher - Miss Good. Front Row: David Ahlf, Albert Theroux, _____, Pearl McCully, Ruby Carter, Margaret Whidden, Murle Baker, Clifford Fuder.



1925-26. Back Row: Mrs. Webb, Orville Baker, Lillian Theroux, Merle Grant. Middle Row: Murle Baker, Iva Edmonds, Margaret Whidden, Earl Baker, David Ahlf. Front Row: Elva Lindberg, Ingrid Lindberg, Ruby Carter, Pearl McCully, Elmer Ahlf.



Batt School.



Batt School in 1942.



Pupils at Batt in 1934. Front Row: Chrissy Millar, Marcel Carter, Anita Lindberg, Phil Holt, _____ Graham, Irma Theroux. Second Row: Harold Whidden, _____, Daisy Lockhart, _____, Hazel Lockhart, _____, Floyd Baker, Graham girl, Graham boy, Gordon Whidden, Francis Graham, Jean Whidden, Asta Lindberg, Murle Baker, Borghild Bruhaug, Margaret Lockhart.



Bert Smith on Pride, Snowball the cat.



Batt School, 1942. Back Row: Donald Dagg, Cecil Lockhart, Anita Lindberg, Lloyd Granger and Barry Holt. Third Row: Alfred Oracheski, Mae Granger, Olga Bruhaug, Andrew Oracheski. Second Row: Clifton Holt, Stella Lindberg, Billy Armitage. Front: Eddie Oracheski, Betty Armitage, Evelyn Oracheski, Jim Lingley, Ellen Lindberg and Mack Holt.



Batt School in 1945.



Back Row: Jerry Mark, Todd Smith, Bert Smith, Gordon Bridgeman, Stella Bridgeman, Faye Smith, Shirley Anne Meakins, Larry Mark, Emory Darling, Gordon Darling.



Mrs. Ken Carter, Ruby Carter, Norma Lennox, Jim Lennox, Dorothy Lennox, Gladys Holt holding Clifton, Phil and Barry Holt.



Batt ball team.



Back Row: David Whidden, Florence Whidden, Earl Moore, Mary Moore, Nan Kennedy, Hazel Moore, J.M. Moore, Margaret Whidden, Mrs. G. Theroux, Elsie Bridgeman, Jean Whidden, Aubrey Whidden, Mrs. D. Whidden, Gordon Whidden, George Theroux.



Tobe Smith and eight-horse team.

March 10, 1922 BATT VALLEY ITEMS

The Valley farmers have been busy teaming grain to the elevators these last three weeks, a number of cars having been loaded. Snyder Bros shipped one car of wheat and one of oats.

The Valley Rural Telephone Co. held its annual meeting at the home of Mr. S. Murray on the 7th. A lively discussion took place in regard to extending the present lines and replacing telephone poles. Mr. Murray, Mr. J. Moore, Mr. E. Moore and Mr. Denison were re-elected as officers for another term by acclamation. Mr. C. Holt applied for membership and was accepted.

A dance will be held in the Batt School on March 8th. A large crowd is expected as it is some time since there has been a dance in the Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. McCulley entertained at cards last Saturday night. A very enjoyable evening was reported. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Lindberg, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Grant and Mr. and Mrs. Viggo Lindberg.

Mrs. D. Whidden is away visiting her daughter Mrs. Robinson at Dapp, Alta.

Bob Murray has left for B. C. after spending a vacation of several months with his parents in the Valley.

Mr. Debbert Brown has returned to California after visiting old friends in the Valley district.

A number of Valeyites journeyed to Kinsella to a party held for Mr. Flemming, a very popular member of the Royal Bank staff who is leaving Jarrow and Kinsella to become manager of another branch of the Royal Bank. Our best wishes go with him.

Hugh McQuire and L. McKinnon made a business trip to Jarrow last Saturday.



Mrs. Theroux and her Sunday School class. Back Row: Earl Baker, Orville Baker, Carl Denison and David Ahlf. Front Row: Mrs. Theroux, Margaret Whidden, Gracie Dickson, Murle Baker, Irma Theroux in front.



Batt Church Group about 1946. Back Row: Gilbert Lovig, Harold Whidden, Tobe Smith, John Archibald, George Theroux, Mr. W. Jamieson. Middle Row: Gordon and Helen Whidden, Donald Dagg, Mrs. W. Bridgeman, Mrs. W. Lockhart, Mabel Lockhart, Bill Lockhart, Irma Theroux, Mrs. Edna Campbell, Elsie Lovig, Margaret Smith, Mildred Bridgeman. Front Row, standing: Jack Campbell, Mrs. H. Whidden, Mary Mansfield, Ethel Wright, Mrs. G. Theroux, Genon Theroux, Alwyn Whidden. Front Row: Grant Lind, Gary Lovig, Wayne Pendleton, Bruce Bridgeman, Cliff Wright, Stella Bridgeman, Todd Smith, and Bert Smith.

One thing about kids - bending them over sometimes straightens them out.



Gordon Whidden, Earl Moore, Tobe Smith, Harold Whidden, Sr., David Whidden, Jack Campbell, George Theroux, Mr. Moore, Sr., Bill Lockhart.

Some women are like umbrellas - easier to handle if you can shut them up.



Norma, Mr. Jim Lennox, Dorothy and Mrs. Lennox.

Batt Sunday School, 1938-39.



tycol

COAL SPRINGS DISTRICT

by Lloyd Erickson

The first settlers came into the Coal Springs district about 1906. The railroad through Irma was not completed till 1909, so settlers came in on the C.P.R. from Wetaskiwin. That line was completed to Bawlf in 1906 and to Loughheed the following year. Chris Christensen was the first permanent settler arriving in 1906. Many others came, proved up, then left for elsewhere. Some did not take to farming and went into business. Others found better land and sold or abandoned their homesteads. The homesteaders came from the United States, Sweden, Norway, England, Germany, Iceland and eastern Canada. Many came from South Dakota. These include O.G. Paulson, Chris Christensen, Olaf Larson, Erickson Bros., Pete Jackson, Olaf Jackson, Milton and Vernon Hardy, also Joe Hardy who ran the lumber yard in Irma. Vernon Hardy homesteaded S.E. 22-45-10 and later moved to Viking where he operated a Red and White store for many years. His son Earl became a teacher and presently lives in Holden. Other family members reside around Viking. Milton Hardy also left the district, probably about 1913, and moved to Ferintosh where he operated a store. He later moved to Barrhead and sold real estate. The Joe Seborg family moved to Montana after selling his land to E.R. Erickson. L. Guiltner homesteaded N.E. 24-45-10 and later moved to Irma. Pete Jackson built a small house on N.E. 22-45-10. While he was homesteading in Alberta, his American girlfriend decided not to wait and married someone else. Pete gave up his homestead, moved to Minnesota and remained a bachelor all his life. There were both happy and sad endings to homesteaders romances. Many settlers in the early years worked on the railroad being built. Others did custom breaking, worked out in harvest and did hauling to supplement their income. Oscar Lindquist was an excellent carpenter who learned his trade in Sweden. He built Coal Springs School, E.R. Erickson house, the house and barn for H. Knudson and his brother Erland's house. Olaf Jackson was a good baseball pitcher. He homesteaded S.W. 12-45-10. This land was later bought by M.T. Knudson. Olaf came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lars Jackson to Bawlf in 1902 from Brant, South Dakota. He pitched for the Bawlf baseball team and later for Irma when he homesteaded here. Olaf went overseas in the First World War and was killed in action on his first day at the front, September 28, 1918. A niece Agnes Pritchard resides in Edmonton. O.G. Paulson homesteaded in 1908 across from where Sharon Lutheran Church now stands. He had come from Huron, South Dakota, later married and had children Irvin, Marion and Thelma. They moved to Edberg about 1916 and later to Edmonton. His brother Pete operated a garage in Camrose for many years. Olgan had two fast coyote hounds which he had brought from the United States. They could outrun and catch any coyote. While driving to town once with his hounds in a sleigh, they spotted a neighbor's tom cat. A few jumps and each hound returned with half a cat. O. Paulson also ran a steam engine and thresher in the early days. Fred and Emil Hardy were brothers from Sweden. Fred was a good cook

who sometimes worked out at his trade. One Sunday afternoon he invited all his bachelor friends over and served them roast porcupine. He told them it was pork and no one was any wiser till some time later. Fred had the ability to wiggle one ear and this always amazed the children who met him. His brother Emil returned to Sweden after selling his farm to John Peterson. Nils Lindholm homesteaded N.W. 22-45-10 and later moved to Jarrow where he sold real estate and farm machinery. The Carl Lindquist family lived on N.E. 4-45-10. His wife was Nora and children named Harold, Holger and Lily. Harold lives in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Holger and Lily in the Loughheed district. Carl and his brother Emil often worked with John Erickson in the early days in threshing, also with breaking and brush cutting. John had a brush cutter mounted on the front of his Rumley tractor. Carl and Emil had come from Sweden and were cousins of Erland, Frank and Oscar Lindquist. Jimmy Morrison lived on S.E. 16-45-10 for about a dozen years. He married a Firkus girl and later sold his farm to S. Lisson. Most names mentioned thus far moved away and the families not mentioned are covered in family reports. Early homesteaders learned to co-operate. Roads were built with fresnos, slips and plows pulled by horses. Game was plentiful and prairie chickens, ducks, geese and rabbits were a staple diet. A special note should be made of the pioneer women who came to the district. Hard work and a desire to build a better future for their families was a common trait. Good meals were provided, making do with home grown meats, vegetables, whatever game could be shot, berries, along with canned goods put up during the summer. Everychild had his chores, cleaning out ashes, keeping the woodbox full, and assisting parents in general farm chores. The children and grandchildren of original homesteaders have grown up and taken their places in the community and other parts of Canada in a creditable manner. The people of various ethnic backgrounds have learned to work together for the common cause in a manner that could well be an example for the rest of the world to follow.



Chris Knudson, Elmer and Anna Erickson with Lloyd in 1917 on Battle River Hill. A McLaughlin Buick car.



Coal Springs Picnic, 1916.



Lloyd and Elmer Erickson in 1920 after a heavy snowfall.

Elmer and Anna Erickson in 1921 with children Lloyd, Phyllis, and Arlene. An Overland car.



COAL SPRINGS

March 1919

Vernon Lindquist is at present staying with his Uncle Oscar and attending school at Coal Springs.

We are pleased to report that the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McDonald is recovering from recent illness.

H Knudson and son Albert drove to the farm in the Sedgewick district on Saturday last with two loads of seed grain for the place.

The members of the Coal Springs section of the Farmer's Mutual Telephone Co., met on Tuesday evening at H. Kasten's and made arrangements for the construction of their telephone line to meet specifications, as soon as the work can be done.

Another of those happy events in the nature of a surprise was sprung upon Mr. and Mrs. H. Knudson and family on Wednesday evening a week ago. A nice gathering present, and the usual games and music were indulged in, until midnight when refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Erickson have purchased an up-to-date Incubator and brooder, intending to raise more than the usual number of chicks more conveniently. The machine has all late improvements which should guarantee success, and we trust the wooden hen will stick to the brood.

Albert Firkus has purchased the 20 horse-power Titan engine, formerly owned by H. Haugan, and brought it to his farm on Saturday. It is his intention to equip the machine with kerosene burner, and additional accessories, for convenience in doing up the spring plowing.

We notice that the gophers are out doing the one-step, as the snow is a little too cold for all feet on the ground at once. Now is the time to get some of the pest, saving poison and also considerable time later in the season. How about an organize gopher day.

COAL SPRINGS SCHOOL

A meeting was held on March 6th, 1911 at the Olaf Larson home to form a school board, and the Larson school district came into being. Members of the first board were Olaf Larson, Milton Hardy and O.G. Paulson.

At a general meeting held in May, 1911 plans were made to obtain a loan in order to build a school. A loan of fourteen hundred dollars at eight percent interest was later obtained. Those present at the meeting were: O.G. Paulson, Olaf Larson, Elmer and John Erickson, Emil Hardy, Arthur Pederson, Chris and Martin Knudson, Nathan Fuder and Henry Kasten - over half of them being bachelors.

Sixty-six dollars was borrowed from the Merchant's Bank at Sedgewick to purchase two acres of land from the C.P.R. for the school site. This site was situated in the centre of a four square mile district. Oscar Lindquist was the successful tender at a price of twelve hundred and seventy-five dollars. He was given forty-five days to complete the school with a penalty of six dollars per day for each day's delay.

In April, 1913 the name changed to Coal Springs School District Number 2360. The name was suggested by the first teacher, Mr. Nelson Tweedy, as a coal mine and springs were below the hill where the school was located.

School opened for classes on June 9th, 1913 with eleven pupils namely: Hilda and Nils Haugen, Hilma Christenson, Alfred, Isabel, Gladys and Elva Larson and Erland, Olga, Pete and Werner Lindquist. Mr. N. Tweedy was hired for sixty-five dollars per month. Alfred Larson was paid two dollars a month to light the fire, with different ones hauling wood and coal and doing the cleaning of the school. John Erickson was paid three dollars for ploughing a fire guard.

The first Christmas concert was held on December 24th, 1913. On September 17th, 1914 the school was closed to allow the teacher and pupils to attend the Irma Agricultural Fair.

School was closed during January and February because of cold weather and bad roads. A month's holiday was given during the summer.

Box socials were held to make money to buy an organ in 1913 which cost seventy-two dollars. They were held to make money for the Red Cross during the First World War.

Names of trustees over the years were: Olaf Larson, O.G. Paulson, Chris Knudson, E.R. Erickson, C. Christenson, E. Lindquist, M.T. Knudson, M.O. Larson, N.L. Fuder and Olaf Lovig. Because taxes were sometimes hard to collect, much of the business at board meeting dealt with interest on loans and to extend notes.

Teachers over the years include: Nelson Tweedy, Olivia Knudson, Mabel McDonald, Anne Vik, L. McNeil, Dan McLeod, R. Costin, Grete Holmes, Mary Storms, Florence Campbell, Elsie Park Young, Maude McKay, Charles Jenkins, Vera Stewart, Bessie Scott, Herba Solstad, Robert Routledge, Bjarne Larson, Ella Bredeson, Mary Currie, Genon Theroux, Inga Kjos, Orville Likness (supervisor), Mr. Gerard and Mrs.

Likeness.

Coal Spring was closed in 1950 and the building was sold to Tobe Smith who used the material to help build his house. In 1952 a small portable school was built on section two, land owned by Torlief Larson. This provided a school for students from Melbrae, Glenholm and Coal Springs and operated for three years. Students attending were Bessie and Arthur Pedel, Esther and Evelyn Fluevog, Nathan, Lorne and Jack Fuder, Carole and Faye Russell, Sonja and Lorna Larson. Mrs. Irene Fluevog was the teacher. In 1956 the school was closed and the students were bussed to Irma with Wilf Symington as bus driver.



Coal Springs School in 1924.



Coal Springs School in 1924. Back Row: Torlief Larson, Bjarne Larson, Merle Knudson, Adolph Lovig, Olaf Larson, Harold Fuder. Front: Harold Lisson, Lloyd Erickson, Roy Fuder, Floyd Fuder, Raymond Lisson, Emil Lovig and Wilbert Fuder in the middle.

The Human Touch

The gift of kindness
And the gift of a smile
Are the gifts of love
That make life worthwhile.



Harold Lisson's birthday party, 1926. Back Row: Floyd Fuder, Emil Lovig, Sugurd Fluevog, Merle Knudson, Harold Fuder, Bill Yakes. Front Row: Gilbert Lovig, Martin Lovig, Lloyd Erickson, Leonard Owens.

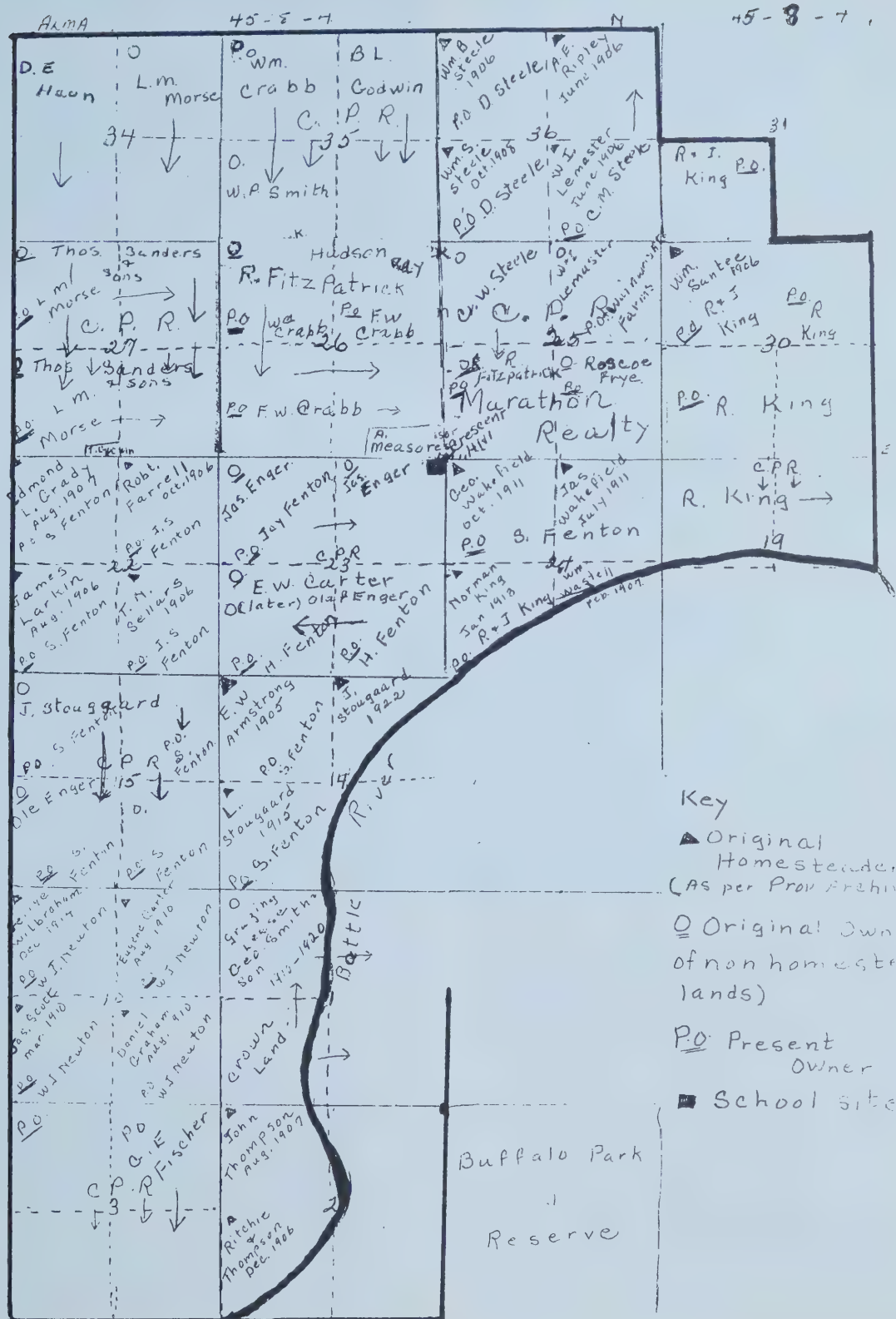


Coal Springs School, 1931-32.



Coal Springs School in 1952. Teacher - Irene Fluevog. Jack Fuder, Carol Russell, Esther Fluevog, Lorne Fuder, Evelyn Fluevog, Sonja Larson, Arthur Pedel, Nathan Fuder, Bessie Pedel.

CRESCENT HILL No. 4375



CRESCENT HILL

In 1928 it became apparent that a school was needed in the area that lay between Sunny Brae to the west, Roseberry to the north, Battle Heights to the north-east and Fabyan to the south-east. Previous to this time the children had to travel long distances to attend one of the above schools. When the Fitzpatrick family moved into this area there were twenty children of school age as well as several pre-schoolers.

The ratepayers approached the Department of Education and as a result a new school district number 4375 was formed - the last in the Irma area. A site was chosen on N.E. 23-45-8 land owned by Mr. James Enger. The school was built on a hill near a curve in the highway - hence the name Crescent Hill.

Members of the first school board were Miss C. Sellars, Mr. R. Fitzpatrick and Mr. William Steele who was also secretary-treasurer. The school was built by September 1929, but there was a delay in receiving the furnishings. Captain Edwards, the inspector, gave permission to open the school with make-shift furnishings - tarpaper blackboard, benches and tables for desks and faith that the weather would remain warm until a furnace was installed. The furnishings and furnace were there early in October.

The school was officially opened with a social evening on August 30, 1929. Nineteen pupils in grades one to nine made up the first register. These pupils were: Myrtle, Edith, Sarah, Gordon and Awilda Fitzpatrick; Mabel and Clara Enger; Leona, Hubert, Leonard and Arthur Frye; Eula, Doria, Bob and Margaret Morgan; Eric, William and Stella Steele; Pearl Haveruk and Anna Anderson.

Miss Alma (Miles) Enger was the first teacher. The following teachers were: Miss Olive Rush; Miss Stone; Mrs. Olive Sather and Miss Irene Ross. Mrs. Olive Sather returned to teach at Crescent Hill in 1942 and continued to give dedicated service until 1947 when the school was closed. The children were bussed to Irma.

The school was truly the centre of the community for social evenings and dances. When the school needed a piano the young people of the district put on a play to help raise funds. Later church services were held for awhile as well.

Some of the later trustees were Martin Enger, William Crabb and Tom Sanders. After the school was closed the building and land were sold to Mr. Allan Worthing. It stands in the original site, but is now empty. Fentons own the land today.



Sunday afternoon entertainment, the Fenton children climbing on the railroad bridge one-quarter mile south of home. Left to Right: Georgina, Stuart, Marjorie Glover (English girl who worked for Mrs. Fred Higginson), Aunt Marion Magee, Gordon, Eldon, Aunt Mildred Magee, Inez.

SCRATCHINGS FROM HAWKINS

March 17, 1942

Mr. and Mrs. J. Muscovitch returned home from England last Monday night.

The Imperial Oil teams have been hauling some of the machinery and tools away from the well in the river bottom to Fabyan. As Shakespeare would say "River Bottom to vbkg cm would say "Farewell, Farewell, a long Farewell to all my Greatness."

Five cars of grain were loaded at Hawkins last week.

Hawkins Worlds Fair 1942. Don't forget the date.

Mr. J. C. Horn who for some years has been farming on the old "Bridge View Ranch" has accepted the position as Sec'y-Treas. of Gilt Edge Municipality at Wainwright. We all unite in wishing him success in his new field of endeavor.

One of the natives encountered a Wild Gopher on March 8th.

Good Milk Cow for sale, fresh about April 1st. L. Hestrup, Irma, 3tp

If times are hard, and you feel blue,
Think of the others worrying, too;
Just because your trials are many,
Don't think the rest of us haven't an
Life is made up of smiles and tears,
Joys and sorrows, mixed with fears;
And though to us it seems one-sided
Trouble is pretty well divided.
If we could look in every heart,
We'd find that each one has its part,
And those who travel Fortune's road
Sometimes carry the biggest load.



Crescent Hill School in 1929-30. Back Row: Leona Frye, Myrtle Fitzpatrick, Edith Fitzpatrick, Sarah Fitzpatrick, Hubert Frye, Leonard Frye. Middle Row: Pearl Haveruk, Awilda Fitzpatrick, Eric Steele, Gordon Fitzpatrick, Billie Steele, Arthur Frye. Front Row: Clara Enger, Ruby Santee, Chrissie Steele, Absent is Mabel Enger.

Sticky Situation

The little catcher cleaned his mask,
It was a rather messy task.
"What's wrong?" the umpire goaded.
"Sir, my bubble gum exploded!"

BY THE RIVER

This is where I love to lie,
Underneath the open sky;
With the dreaming trees above me,
And the sun to kiss and love me;
Barely feel the breeze caress,
Birds sing in their happiness;
Whispering leaves, and flowers growing,
Down below, the river flowing;
Greyish purple hills so high,
Indistinct in vapor lie;
Dusky pines, their spires uplifting,
Fluffy clouds forever shifting;
Here is peace for tired minds,
Where the singing river winds.

▲ S.A.V. Harry L Caine Aug. 1909 6 48-10-4	C.P.R. P.O. T Greenwood 5	▲ Richard Haffer Dec. 1909 ▲ John Locke Aug. 1909	C.P.R. 3
▲ Robt. L Scott Oct. 1910	P.O. T. Greenwood	4 ▲ Chas. W. Hollar Apr. 1906 P.O. C. Hollar	
Key ▲ Homesteader ○ Original owner of non- homestead Land. P.O. Present Owner ■ School Site	3 C.P.R. ▲ Elton Austin Sept. 1910 P.O. M. Orachowski ▲ David Elliot Apr. 1906 P.O. M. Orachowski	▲ George Lee July 1908 P.O. W.D. Johnston ▲ C.E. Moon Nov. 1911 P.O. E. Orachowski 32	C.P.R. P.O. Everitt Greenwood 33 P.O. H. Hollar
47.5-4 30 ▲ Douglass George Apr. 1908 ▲ Howard Pyke June 1910	School Land (Crown) 29	▲ Arthur H. Barker June 1907 ▲ Melvin A. Dutcher Nov. 1908 28 ▲ Harry Richmond June 1906 ▲ Jas. O'Grady Nov. 1909 P.O. Lyle Orachowski	▲ Robt. Landers Sept. 1906 ▲ Samuel Mackay Dec. 1907 P.O. Norman Hollar 34 P.O. W. Sauer ▲ Ollie R. Hollar Apr. 1906 ▲ Geo. S. Horner May 1909 P.O. C.D. Hollar P.O. C. Hollar
C.P.R. 19	▲ Hiram Pyke July 1911 ▲ Geo. Boyce Nov. 1908 P.O. A + L 20 ▲ Roy E. Boyce ▲ Allan D Scott May 1910	C.P.R. P.O. J.H. Armitage 21 P.O. J.H. Armitage	▲ Clara + John Boyce Apr. 1911 ▲ Leslie Pyke Aug. 1911 P.O. R.F. Hollar 22 P.O. C.B. Hollar ▲ S.A.V. Ollie R. Hollar P.O. R.F. Hollar

ALMA.

ECHO S.D. 1967

SOME REFLECTIONS OF ECHO DISTRICT

by Lloyd Cameron

In July 1931, after having spent nine months at Camrose Normal School, armed with a valid Interim Second Class Teaching Certificate, I set out in my Dad's old McLaughlin touring car to find a school board that needed someone like me. After a good many interviews I finally came to Mr. Allan Graham, who was a trustee of Echo S.D. They were needing a teacher, so after talking a while we went to Ollie Hollar's, chairman of the board. A meeting was arranged to be held at the home of secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Lloyd Mackey, in a week's time. A contract form was filled out, signed and witnessed. I was to teach the pupils, light and maintain the fires when necessary, sweep and dust, and get paid \$850 in ten equal payments.

So, on September 1, I was there to meet my pupils for the first time. I was almost nineteen years old and starting my life in the Echo district. There I remained for seven years and became a part of much what went on in the Echo and Rodino districts. My pupils were the youngest members of the pioneer families, or part of the next generation. Those attending in 1931 were the three youngest Landers, Lela, Joe and Gordon - known as Jack. There were the six youngest Hollars, most of them with double names - one for the school register and one for common use. There was Glen, who was called Pete; Nora, known as Tip; Norman, whom everyone called Boo; Claude, or Docc; Robert, who is still called Tuddy; Ernest started school the next year and the kids called him Bub. I must not forget Cora Lee in Grade IV that first year, and for some reason I never learned, was called Cora Lee! There were the three children of Allan Graham, a veteran of World War I, who had brought a wife from England; Frances and Dorothy and a boy, Bobby.

The one I like to remember was Gordon Elliott. September 1, 1931, was his first day at school and my first day as a teacher. I'm sure we both felt strange in our new circumstances. In my second year at Echo, Grahams moved to Batt district. Mrs. Clara Elliott and her boys moved to Rodino, so for a while only Landers and Hollars were left at school. In the spring, Alfred Crouse moved back to the farm from Viking, with Aaron and Mary to come to school.

In the following years of those hungry thirties, people were moving around quite often. For awhile Marbrys lived with Edmunds on the Graham farm, and Alma and Ralph came to school. The older Browns came, with Frank and Bert; Bill Browns moved into the place vacated by Shorty Foolks, and Warren started to school in Grade 1. After Lloyd Mackeys left, the Hammers moved in, with Gladys, Clifford and Alice. After Lynx school was closed, Vance and Velma Shippy came to Echo, as well as the two oldest Barkers. In the last year I was there, Sonny and Bruce Greenwood started to school. One year Walter Garvie came to take grade IX, and Jack Barber stayed with Mr. Elliot and came to school for some grade X subjects.

It is hard to name the first children of the school and

also those to follow but I hope the following will bring back some memories. There were Rosebud and Anna Hollar, sisters of Ollie Hollar, Landers, Richmond, George and Boyce children, Evie Collison and Myrtle Scott; then came Browns, Crouse, Hammer, Ratz, Shippy, Pyke, Edmunds, Elliott, King, Greenwood, Tessman, Thomas, Beckett, Landers and there were several generations of Hollars. The school was closed several years during the early 40's and 50's and the children attended Lynx, Rodino and Willowview. It was re-opened in 1952 for a few years with Mrs. Landers as teacher. Then came the large school district and these children were transported to Albert School by bus, driven by Vance Shippy.



Tom Greenwood and Jim Hollar doing head stands on their horses about 1928.

Echo-Rodino

Jan Mrs. A. Beckett 1969

Greetings in the new year!

Misses Claudia Hunter and Sheila Crouse were home for the holidays from Edmonton.

Karen Bauer was home from hospital in time for Christmas.

Gordon McBeath and Kay spent a few days visiting Mr. and Mrs. C. Hollar.

We are sorry to hear Robert Hollar suddenly took sick and had to go to hospital in Viking.

Vance Shippy was in the district visiting the Hunter family and other friends.

The mercury did a nose-dive on December 27 when it hit a low of 46 below. Snow has been falling continuously for 12 days, at the time of this writing.

ECHO SCHOOL

For those who do not know where Echo school was situated, it was north and east of Kinsella some twelve miles on S.E. 32-47-10-4. There were many bachelors in the district so it was hard to get a school started. Ollie Hollar took on the job of collecting \$8.00 per farmer for two years so that the school could be built as in those days it was impossible to borrow the money. This was a form of school tax. The school was built in 1909 at a cost of \$1200.00 and was later taken over by the Local Improvement Board. It was named Echo School by Mr. Richmond, who came from California. There had been a school there by that name. The first board of Trustees was Ollie Hollar, chairman, Harry Barker, secretary and George Lee as trustee. Mr. Hollar remained as trustee for the entire operation of the school.

The first teacher only remained one month and Miss MacKenzie came at a salary of \$300.00 for six months. This meant there was a Christmas concert which was a real thrill in all schools. There were no Christmas trees locally in those days so a good old poplar was decorated for the occasion. Among the teachers who taught here were: Earle Moore, Wm. Miller, Lloyd Cameron, another Miss MacKenzie in 1916, Miss McKitrick, Miss Kendall, Miss Abott, Miss Kapik, Miss Rose, Miss Hanson, Miss McElroy, Miss McKoenon, Miss McFadyen, Miss Workman, Miss Scott, Miss Kennedy, Miss Simmons (Mrs. Bob Arkinstall), Miss Simerville, Miss Wakefield (Mrs. Geo. Hariman), and the last teacher was Miss Ruth Van Meer, now Mrs. Arthur Landers who lives in Kinsella.

In the last three years I was at Echo we had some pretty good Christmas concerts, with help from Iva King and the Edmunds' piano, and Bill Johnston as a big talkative Santa Claus.

The Rodino Young Peoples Association had been organized a year or two before I came to the district, and Rodino was the chief social centre for the area. The Hall was built in the first year I was there. I went to all the meetings, dances, ball practices and games. I took roles in two different three-act plays that were put on. I always managed to come for the summer Sports days in school holiday time and be part of the Rodino ball team.

The 1930's were probably the worst years of the century for accumulating worldly goods. I know my salary went down from \$850 to \$650 a year, and at times the school board had no funds to give me my \$65 cheque. The farmers got very little for their products and in some years the crops were poor; debts and taxes often went unpaid. To partly offset the bad times, there were lots of young people around who had time to have fun, so I along with many others have a great many pleasant memories of my years at Echo.

After leaving Echo in June, 1938, I decided to try to make a living without teaching school. After a few frustrating months I gave up the idea and started studying some Grade XII subjects. The next fall I went back to teaching with the Killam School Division. I also got married to Rosie Crouse, thus taking part of Echo with me. I taught three years north of Lougheed, one year east of Alliance, and for eight years near Battle

River south of Hardisty. In these years two boys and two girls came to live with us. In the fall of 1951 we moved to a farm northeast of Lougheed and here we remain. Our oldest boy became a chemist, one girl a nurse and one a school teacher, and the other son a farmer. They provided us with seven grandchildren.

Echo School was sold to Mr. Tobe Smith and was moved away in the 1950's.



Echo School, 1933.



Echo School Students, 1933. Nora Hollar, Lela Landers, Joe Landers, Mary Crouse, Cora Lee Hollar.



Echo School, 1938. Bert Brown, Vance Shippy, Clifford Hammer, Bruce Greenwood, _____, Ernest Hollar and Sonny Greenwood.

RULES FOR TEACHERS IN 1915

1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hour of eight p.m. and six a.m. unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in the ice cream stores.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colors.
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To keep the schoolroom neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily; scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water; clean the blackboards at least once a day and start the fire at seven a.m. so the room will be warm by eight a.m.

Echo-Rodino

Nov Mrs. A. Beckett 1968

Mrs. Henry Beckett and Rhonda, Mrs. Erroyl Beckett and Brenda all of Mannville, were Sunday visitors of the Ambrose Beckett's.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Hollar and Shane, Mrs. N. Hollar and Lorraine were in Vermilion on Monday.

Mrs. Lyn Hunter has gone to Creston, B.C. to the bedside of her father. Claude Shippy. is very ill in hospital at this time.

The Crouse's and N. Hollar's made a trip to Wainwright one afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Holt, Joe and Mary motored to the city Thursday and came back the following day.

Mr. and Mrs. G. McBeath were weekend visitors of Mr. and Mrs. C. Hollar.

Joe Suru of Donalda called on Claude Hollar Friday evening.



Echo School, 1940. Back Row: Ernest Hollar, Clifford Hammer, Gladys Hammer, Warren Brown. Middle Row: Betty Rasmussen, Alice Hammer, Edna Pyke, Doreen King. Front Row: Mervyn Brown, Melvin Crouse, Martha Pyke, Edwin Erickson.



Christina Beckett on Ralph Tessman's pony. Standing: David Thomas, Florence Landers, Ralph Tessman, Phyllis Tessman, Erroyl Beckett, spring of 1953.

Kindness

A single act of kindness,
Like a stone tossed in a pond,
Sends rings of ripples outward
That travel far beyond,
And joining other ripples,
Flow outward to the sea;
A single act of kindness
Affects Eternity.

The honeymoon is over when your wife starts complaining about the noise you make when you are getting breakfast.

Remember when a capsule travelled in a man?

▲ Ole. Sund. n Oct. 1907 PO Jerry R. Mark	▲ Arthur. Hinton Dec. 1907 PO Jerry Mark	▲ Jas. Barker Dec. 1906 PO A.L. Pierce	▲ Wellington Prosser July 1909 PO S.W. Jones
▲ Roy A. Merry July 1906 PO C. D. Lukens CROWN	▲ Peter L. Larson July 1906 PO A.L. Larson	▲ Jas. Craig Aug. 1908 PO R. Jones	▲ Albert Pitt Oct. 1907 PO S.W. Jones
PO PA. Larson PO Allan L. Larson	▲ Bert Clelland Oct. 1909 PO Allan L. Larson	▲ David Craig 190 PO A.L. Pierce	PO D. Kuwica PO E. Meyer
▲ Thos. I. Hayward July 1906 ▲ Wm. Durrand Jan. 1910	▲ Sid. McDermid July 1908 PO R. L. Larson	▲ Mathew Kennedy May 1906 PO A.L. Pierce	▲ Richard Costin Sept. 1910 PO W. Kuwica (Est.)
PO Chas. L. Larson	PO Chas. L. Larson	PO C. J. Costin Sept. 1909	PO K. C. Ford
Correction Line	Correction Line	Correction Line	Correction Line

Key -

▲ Home - Steader

○ Original owner of non-Home- Stead land

PO Present Owner

■ School Site

Information re
Original Homesteaders
Obtained from Prov.
Archives

Education Point - 2849

EDUCATION POINT

Some of the earliest settlers in the Education Point district were Mr. and Mrs. M. Ambler and sons; Chester Brown, Clarkston (Tam) and Gordon; James and David Craig; Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Prosser and sons, Sherman, Freeman and Melvin; Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Elliott, Will, Dick, Jim, Mary and Mabel; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnstone; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Renwick; Mr. and Mrs. Bert Clelland; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Merry, Ray and Howard; Levi and Harry Butler; L.L. Guiltner; Harry Osterhout; Mrs. Pearl Smart and the Henry brothers.

Mr. Prosser had a steam outfit with which he pulled a thirteen bottom plow. He broke the south half of 9-47-8. Mr. Osterhout broke the north half of that section with the outfit. That outfit broke lots of land.

James Craig, being a true artisan, was a super carpenter, built many homes in the area. Among them being Bill Mathew's house, Burt Haun house and Bert Clelland house and barn, Avonglen schoolhouse and barn, Passchendale school and barn, the house on the Arnold place when Linus Meyer lived there and his own house which was eventually sold to H. Schreyer.

Shortly after the Clelland house was completed Mrs. Clelland passed away. It was after this that Wilbert Myers stayed with Bert and attended school at Education Point.

Mr. Craig also made caskets, rebuilt Haun's and Prosser's threshing machines, made sleigh runners, wagon axles, buggy and cutter boxes, as well as spokes for the wooden wheels of trucks. There were no machine sheds in those days so all work was done outside.

Settlers in the district could depend on getting a water well with Joe Merry and his well drilling machine or by Pearl Smart who owned a well boring outfit.

Mrs. Joe Merry was the main midwife of the district in the early days.

The Henry brothers came from the States with a herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle as well as horses. They built two houses -later Roy Moulton lived in one. They broke the land with horses and seeded it to hay. The next year

their haystacks were intentionally burned, leaving them without feed for their livestock. The result was they moved out.

The Elliotts had Red Polled cattle. Church and Sunday School was held in the Elliott home until Alma Mater school was built in 1919.

As in most districts there were mostly good neighbors who were willing to help one another, come what may.

In the 1920's prairie fires were often caused by the steam threshing outfits. One such fire came towards the school from the northwest. The teacher and pupils put up a brave fight with lunch pails and drinking water pail and were able to protect the school until Reub Patterson came with a tandem plow to make a fire guard. The furrow ridges could be seen for years.



Education Point School - 1923 or 1924. Front Row: Hazel Smart, Martha Craig, Adelaide (Elliott) Dootson, Jean (McLean) Saville, Maxine (De Tro) Larson, Edith Larson, Marney (Patterson) Cosford. Back Row: James Craig, Edwin Elliott, Charlie De Tro, Rupert Larson, Everett Smart, Herbert Larson, Art Larson, Alvin Smart, Angus (Red) Larson, Bill Patterson.

EDUCATION POINT SCHOOL

Education Point School District Number 2849 was organized early in the spring of 1914 with Colin McLean as chairman, Frank Johnstone as secretary and John McNaughton on the board. During the summer the building was erected on S.E. 1-47-9 by Robert Harper and W.E. Walker (Longboat). The building was opened with a dance late in August and classes commenced in September with Mr. Edward Costain as teacher.

Twelve pupils were required in order to open a school so the three Renwick children were included, although their home was outside the new district. No records are available, but from memory the first pupils were: Herbert and Helen Larson; Dorothy Johnstone and her cousin Madeline Fischer; Dorothy, Lloyd and Gladys Renwick; Sherman and Freeman Prosser; Clarkson and Gordon Ambler and Howard Merry.



Wading in Elliott's Lake on the way to school - Edwin Elliott, Adelaide Elliott and Olive Linley.

Mr. Costain taught until 1917. The following teachers signed the register: Mrs. R. Patterson, Miss Johnstone, who succumbed to the dreaded flu, so Mrs. Patterson filled in, Miss Hopegood, Miss Kinepp, Miss Bramley-Moore and Mr. Rice.

By the summer of 1922, the board decided to hire a male teacher for better discipline. Mr. MacIntosh was engaged and successfully handled the school until 1928. Following him were Miss Hazel Congdon, Anne MacDonald, Mr. Hodgkinson, Mr. Max Saville, Miss Verna Robertson, Mr. Art Larson, Mrs. Louisa Prosser, Miss Gerda Rosen, Mrs. Alma Enger, Miss Jean Cockroft, Miss Norma McCulloch, Mr. Davies and Mr. Jack Stead.

It appears the name Education Point was suggested by Mr. Johnstone, who had lived near a school of that name in Manitoba. Apparently no one had a better suggestion, thus the new district acquired its name.

Following are the names of men who served as school trustees at Education Point: Wellington Prosser, Chester Brown, James and William Elliott, Reuben Patterson, Clarence Costain, David and James Craig, Frank Johnstone, John McNaughton, David Currie and Colin McLean. Colin McLean, who had been elected as chairman when the district was formed, served as trustee for twenty-one years.

When the Wainwright School Division was formed, David Currie went to Wainwright to be their secretary.

Colin McLean was elected as trustee to the Wainwright Board some time after the division was formed.

After the school was closed and the pupils bussed to Irma, the building was sold to Bill Guy and moved to Irma. Today it stands as a fine home.



Education Point School, 1919. Back Row: Melvin Prosser, Gordon Ambler. Second Row: Wilbert Myers, Herbert Larson. Third Row: Everett Smart, Art Larson. Fourth Row: Jean McLean, Arlie Prosser. Front Row: Marnie Patterson, Rupert Larson, Alva Smart, Annie Prosser and Red Larson.



Mr. Edward Costin lived in Education Point School District and taught that school. Son Percy owned N.W. 1/4 32-8-4. Son Clarence lived in a stone house north of Elliott's.



Back Row: Bill Merry, Alva Smart, Rupert Larson, Art Larson, Everett Smart, Jean McLean, Olive Linley. Second Row: Adelaide Elliott, Angus (Red) Larson, Ann Prosser, Charlie De Tro, Edwin Elliott, Percy (Pert) Prosser. Front Row: Bill Patterson, Martha Craig, Marney Patterson, Edith Larson, Maxine De Tro, Jim Craig.



Education Point about 1946.

Back Row: Harry Figenshau, Grace Herder, Sonny Patterson. Middle Row: Aubrey Brooks, Irene Larson, Evelyn Herder, Lois Patterson. Front Row: Don Fischer, Ken Fischer, Clara Lou Larson, Brooks, Dan Kuwica, Fred Kuwica.



Education Point School, 1919. Back Row: Melvin Prosser, Gordon Ambler. Second Row: Wilbert Myers, Herbert Larson. Third Row: Everett Smart, Art Larson. Fourth Row: Jean McLean, Arlie Prosser. Front Row: Marnie Patterson, Rupert Larson, Alva Smart, Annie Prosser and Red Larson.



Jean Larson with her class in Edmonton.

WHO'S DELINQUENT?

We read in the papers, we hear on
the air
Of killing and stealing, and crime
everywhere.
We sigh, and we say, as we notice
the trend
Of this young generation, "Where
will it end?"
But can we be sure that it's their
fault alone?
That maybe a part of it isn't our
own?
Too much money to spend, too
much idle time
Too many movies of passion and
crime;
Too many books — not fit to be
read,
Too much evil in what they hear
said.
Too many children encouraged to
roam,
By too many parents who won't
stay at home.
Kids don't make the movies, they
don't write the books
That paint gay pictures of
gangsters and crooks.
They don't make the liquor, they
don't run the bars.
They don't make the laws and they
don't buy the cars.
They don't make the drugs that
addle the brain.
It is all done by older folk, eager
for gain.
And, in how many cases, we find
that it's true,
The label "delinquent" fits older
Folk too!

ALMA

☒ School Site

GLENHOLM DISTRICT

Little is known of some of the pioneers of this district as they stayed such a short time. Their contribution became the name of the quarter they homesteaded.

William Riley homesteaded N.E. 20-45-9 before 1908 and became a school trustee as well as served on the board of the Irma Methodist Church in 1910. He went into the restaurant business in Irma, but joined the army in World War I and was killed in France. The pulpit in the Irma United Church was donated by his wife, Emma, in memory of her husband. Oskar Steffensen came in 1908 to homestead N.W. 17-45-9. Another pioneer of 1908 was John B. Gulbraa who took N.E. 17-45-9 as a homestead. John S. Gulbraa and family lived with his cousin until their home was built. Joseph Gulbraa homesteaded S.W. 16-45-9 in 1909. Other settlers of 1908 were William and Charlie Reed who homesteaded N.E. 10-45-9.

Cliff McKay came in 1909 and homesteaded N.E. 16-45-9 followed by the R.D. Smallwood family in 1910 to settle on S.W. 22-45-9.

Mr. Young and family came and settled on a half of 14-45-9 which was sold to James Jackson in 1927. James McDonald homesteaded S.W. 6-45-9 before 1911, as did Vern Peterson who also came in 1911.

Halsten Knudson and family homesteaded N.W. 19-45-9 in the spring of 1916 where Mabel Reitan lives today. Otto Bethge farmed Dreivelow's land from 1922 to 1924. George and Bill Pedel arrived in March, 1921. Charlie Jackman came in around 1925 and lived where Jack MacKay lives today. Mr. and Mrs. John MacKay and family came to the district in 1927.



Dandy pile of wood, Joe Gulbraa in centre. Don Peterson, Harold and Carl Gulbraa and Miss Murdock.

A Timely Reflection

I often try to save some time
To bank it or to lend it
But I have found that all I do
Is take the time and spend it.



Glenholm School.

GLENHOLM SCHOOL

Although Glenholm was not built until 1920, a meeting was called by William Riley at his homestead in May of 1911, when it was decided to build a school on N.E. 9-45-9, subject to approval of the Minister of Education. The trustees were Mr. J.B. Gulbraa as chairman, Mr. William Eaton and Mr. Riley as secretary-treasurer until 1912 when Mr. Bannister took over. Mr. Bannister resigned in June, 1912 probably for health reasons. Assessing and collecting taxes were part of the secretary's job.

Mr. Gulbraa finished Bannister's term and R.J. Tate of Irma was appointed secretary-treasurer for 1913. Mr. Gulbraa was secretary again 1915-16. A salary of thirty dollars, later reduced to twenty-five dollars, went with this office. Other trustees were: C. Reed, William Reed, C. McKay, C.J. Young, J.A. McDonald, H. Knudson and A.A. Campbell.

To provide for the needs of school age children before the school was built, the school board provided transportation or payment to attend surrounding schools.

In February, 1920 it was decided to build the school on S.W. 16-45-9, purchased from Joe Gulbraa for one dollar. Sawyer and Askin built the school. In 1924 the barn was built and painted and a fence erected by the school board to save the cost of labor.

School opened September, 1920, but its operation was sporadic. After three months the teacher resigned. In January, 1921 a motion was made that a teacher be engaged as soon as the weather became favorable. Wood and coal were used for heating and the water supply was carried from the Gulbraa farm for ten cents per day.

The first Christmas concert was held in 1925 (put on by Miss Jobb). Vern Peterson supplied violin music until an organ was bought in 1934. The first school picnic was in 1928. The school was used for church services and political meetings.

Teachers included: Mrs. C. Peterson, Mrs. C. Christenson, the Misses C. MacFarlane, N. Skogheim, H. Jobb, R. Townsend, M. McFadzean, G. Murdock, I. Engedahl, M. Kjos, Mrs. Doris Likness, Miss M. Burpee, Mrs. B. McLean, Miss Steffensen, Mrs. Rodevoldt, Miss Shotts, Miss Hill (supervisor), Miss L. Darkes, Mrs. Ella McRoberts and Mrs. L. Prosser. Salaries were as low as seven hundred dollars per year.

The enrollment in 1923 was five pupils: Knut, Sophia and Magnus Gulbraa, Charlie Reed and Martha Hagen. By 1931 the enrollment was twenty-five pupils.

The school's operation was shouldered mainly by Oskar Steffensen and Joe Gulbraa, who served as trustees or chairman from the early twenties until 1945. Other trustees were: L. Hagen, J. McDonald, C. Jackman, Otto Bethge and J. Jackson.

Glenholm school closed in 1952 and the pupils were bussed to Irma. In 1959 the school was bought by Mrs. Herbert and Lloyd and made into a home. Unfortunately it was destroyed by fire in 1960.



Back Row: Lenard Peterson, Carl Gulbraa, Dora Mae Reed, Molly Jackman, Mildred Bethge, Lyla Peterson, Harold Gulbraa, Joan Jackman. Second Row: Joseph Pioker, Arlene Steffenson, Nan MacKay, Solveig Steffenson, Charlie Jackman, Clarence Bethge, George Reed, Olive Reed, Paul Bethge, Steve Pioker. Front Row: David Gulbraa, Marilyn Jackman, Mae Jackman, Irvine Bethge, Betty MacKay, Wilfred Bethge. Teacher in 1934 was Miss G. Murdock.

Every minute you are angry you lose sixty seconds of happiness.



Jessie and Joan Jackman riding their school horse.

THE OLD BUTTER CHURN

*Humming to herself and dreaming
Of a new bonnet or Sunday picnic
The housewife sits churning
Fresh cream
Between the wooden paddles.
Before she realizes
Her cream has thickened into fresh butter
So she packs up her dreams
Within her butter churn until tomorrow.*



THE THINGS YOU CANNOT BUY

*The best and sweetest things in life are things you cannot buy,
The music of the birds at dawn, the rainbow in the sky.
The dazzling magic of the stars, the miracle of light,
The precious gifts of health and strength, of hearing, speech and sight.
The peace of mind that crowds a busy life of work well done,
A faith in God that deepens as you face the setting sun,
The boon of love, the joy of friendship, as the years go by,
You find the greatest blessings are the things you cannot buy.*



Gusher in McKay Coulee - 1948.



John Gulbraa and family showing part of the old sod house beside the newer one.



Joe Gulbraa going to Irma over flooded road in 1948.



Carl on Donald McKays pony.



Early snowstorm on September 17, 1925. Note how the garden is weighted down.

THE LAST STRAW

*The beds are unmade
And the dust's a disgrace.
It would take a brigade
To unlitter the place.*

*My stockings are hung
In the bathroom for drying,
While both of my young
Have been busy mud-pie-ing.*

*My patience is thin
And I'm nervous and cross
So, of course, who walks in
But my spouse ... with his boss.*

IRMA S.D. 2345

▲ Louis Point Aug 1909 P.O. A.C. G.Winn ▲ C. Roy Cupfman Apr. 1911 P.O. A.B. ▲ Gregoire Lubri - W. Howarth Cane Sept. 1911 P.O. A.B. G.Winn	▲ C. R. Westbrook Dev't Ltd. L.K. Dayton G.Winn ▲ Jean Baptiste March 1908 P.O. A.W. G.Winn ▲ Joseph Mayow Sept. 1907 P.O. A.W. G.Winn	▲ Edland Feb. 1908 P.O. A.A. Archibald Jas. Dayton P.O. A.H. Jack ▲ Ira G. Pringle Oct. 1910 P.O. A.H. Jack Bert Long July 1905 P.O. A.A. Archibald R. Larson ▲ C. R. Marathon Realty P.O. A. Archibald Walker P.O. A.E. Knudson	▲ J.C. Keene P.O. Jas. Craig ▲ A.E. Haase P.O. Jas. Craig ▲ Chas. W. Milburn Nov. 1908 P.O. C.S. Craig ▲ John W. Milburn Dec. 1907 P.O. C.S. Craig	▲ Geo. Graham Aug. 1906 P.O. Mrs. M. Thurston ▲ Wm. Barber May 1906 P.O. I.C. Barber ▲ S.C. miles P.O. Mrs. F. Garney P.O. C.S. Smallwood	▲ W.F. Jones P.O. R. Smallwood
▲ Henry Burkholder Feb. 1909 P.O. A.P.P. Ry 14 acres P.O. A.P.P. Ry ▲ J.R. Ay Stewart Capell Sept. 1911 P.O. J.M. Veer	▲ Dallas L. Smith May 1910 P.O. M. Raasok	▲ Arthur Pennock 1908 P.O. M. Rees ▲ Wm. M. Rees May 1908 P.O. R.L. Jones ▲ C. R. J. W. Graydon P.O. A.D. Glasgow	▲ Irma P.O. R.W. Thurston Demet. City ▲ H.W. Love P.O. A.D. Glasgow ▲ Joseph W. Graydon Aug. 1907 P.O. J. McKay ▲ Chas. Stanley May 1909 P.O. Grant	▲ Wm. Musson. P.O. A.W. Cook ▲ H.B. Thurston ▲ Geo. Osterhout ▲ Geo. Harder Est	Key - ▲ Original Homeheader P.O. Present Owner Original owner of non-homestead land School site Highway Railway

Information re
Homesteaders
Obtained from Provincial
Archives.

Alma

45-9 - W

Irma School Report. 1919

Perfect attendance during June:

Lavina Hasse, Wilmer and Magaret Rae, William Wold, Charlie and Lennie Peterson, Alex and Maude Smallwood, Pearl, Ezriel and Clara Sharky, Hoy Ewers, Cecil Curfman, Edith Hosterip, Dennis Barber, Ada and Iva Edmonds, Myrtle and Gerald Glasgow.

Grade VI. Charlie Pollock 88.3; Pauline Lwers 88.1.

Grade IV. Alex Smallwood 88.5; Pearl Sharky 84.6; Hoy Ewers 83; Charlie Peterson 82.6; Lloyd Edmonds 67.8.

Grade III. Cecil Curfman 86; Maude Smallwood 78.1.

Grade II. Nora Sharky, Lorne Milburn, Lennie Peterson.

Miss Saunders, teacher of Irma school, left on Saturday for her home in New Brunswick.

Leo Baxter of Harcourt, New Brunswick, is visiting at McKay Ranch.

IRMA SCHOOL FAIR/1931 THURS. SEPT. 10th

The Irma School Fair will be held at Irma Sept. 10th Thursday, 1931. It is hoped by the Fair Board that all scholars will read this bulletin carefully and follow the rules for that is how the exhibits will be judged.

The gardens have been badly damaged by frost and cut worms, but we all suffer equally, so enter the best you have for it is the exhibits which makes a fair a success. We will get prize lists out soon. Entry tags and stickers can be had by teachers by seeing the Secretary.



Watkinson house on the left, the bank on the right: Stan Guiltner, Bob Maguire, Ben Maguire, Bob Guiltner, Lila Maguire holding the horse.

For a lot of people counting calories has just become a weigh of life.



Irma Public School Senior Room 1932-33. Back Row: Louis Jones, Harvey Guiltner, Bob Charter, Clarence Carter, ?, Art Knudson, Gunnard Larson, Allison Carter, ?, Ron Thurston, Cliff Jones, Elbert Levitt. Middle Row: ?, Stella Arnold, Marie Webber, Gladys Geeson, Louisa Barber, Ethel Arnold, Rose Sharkey, Ruth Reeds, ?, Mildred Hill, Dorothy Geeson, Ethel Tate, Margaret Tate. Front Row: Phil Charter, Eldon Herbert, Don McKay, Max Webber, Jim Sharkey, Art Peterson.

A Cheerful Heart

'Tis well to walk with a cheerful heart
Wherever our fortunes call,
With a friendly glance and an open hand
And a gentle word for all.
Since life is a thorny and difficult path
Where toil is the portion of man,
We all should endeavor, while passing along,
To make it as smooth as we can.

IRMA SCHOOL

By 1910 the Irma community was well enough populated to think of erecting a school to accommodate the village and surrounding farm children. The first teacher was Miss Ursula Flett who taught for a short time before her sister Marguerite came from New Brunswick to take over.

The Irma Public School opened on August 1, 1910. There were only five pupils and as six were needed to keep a school open, Edward Swailes was paid a nickel a day to attend until another family moved in. School was held in a room in the hotel until it burned in 1911, when classes were then held in the Methodist Church and remained there until a proper school was erected.

In 1912 the cottage school was built. Although there is little information available in regards to the school at this time it is known that Miss Bessie Brickman was one of the first teachers, while Burkholder and Renwick children were among the first pupils. Until 1921 high school students had to attend elsewhere. Prior to 1921 Sid Miles and Oskar Steffensen, trustees from Sunny Brae and Glenholm, while on the train to a Trustees Convention in Calgary discussed the need for a high school in Irma. This was brought up at the convention and a request was made to the Department of Education for a high school. As a result the first consolidated rural high school in the province was opened in 1921 and was known as Irma

Consolidated Rural High School Number One. It was made up of the following districts: Alma Mater, Sunny Brae, Strawberry Plains, Ross, Glenholm and Irma. Mr. John Hollinshead was the first high school teacher and held classes in the Methodist Church. Another public school was built in 1921 and the high school was moved into the cottage school. Other high school teachers were Mrs. Hammer Jackson (who taught only two weeks), Mr. Fowler (1922-23) and Miss Broadbridge (1923-24).

In 1924 Mr. I.S. Reeds came to Irma and taught continuously until 1953. The school building was quite inadequate as there was no place for science equipment and during the winter the pupils' lunches froze in the unheated porch. Mr. Reeds said he would have left after the first year had he not been promised a new school. In those days the high school teacher taught all the subjects in the high school but he had no authority over the elementary school teachers at that time.

A barn in the northeast corner of the schoolyard housed the mounts of country pupils. Sometimes arguments erupted between the high and elementary pupils.

Simmons and Saunders built the new one-roomed high school north of the elementary school. It had a spacious classroom, cloak rooms, a small laboratory, but no flush

Below, Top Left. Irma Public School in 1922.

Below, Bottom Left. High School. Back Row: Alma Enger, Sadie Lennon, Maude Smallwood, teacher Mr. Hollinshead, Eric Richardson, Cecil Askin, Gordon Fenton, Tom Askin. Middle Row: Leona (Peterson) Bauck, Bill Wold, Mazel Murphy, _____, Margaret (Miles) Armstrong, Georgina (Fenton) Enger. Front Row: Alex Smallwood, Darrel Peterson, Loreen Hoover, _____, Jean (Blades) Rae.



Lady School Trustee. 1917

A special meeting of the rate-payers of the Irma school district to elect in place of H. Burkholder who has resigned.

There were 24 resident ratepayers and ladies entitled to vote present.

R. Smallwood the chairman declared meeting open for nominations. F. Johnson was nominated by W.B. Peterson seconded by C. Lattner. Mrs. E.T. McDowell was nominated by R.J. Tate seconded by Mrs. P.J. Hardy. Mr. Pheasey was nominated by C. Woods seconded by Mr. Curfman. R.A. Pennock was nominated by H.W. Love seconded by A.A. Dixon.

Mr. Pennock withdrew his nomination and a ballot was taken on the remaining three names with the following result:

Mrs. E. T. McDowell, 10 votes
F. Johnson, 7 votes.

Mr. Pheasey, 6 votes.

The chairman declared Mrs. McDowell elected.

The meeting then adjourned.

toilets. An event each year was the visit of the Inspector. In those days he travelled by train (only one Inspector for the whole of Alberta). He would arrive at Irma at noon and go on to Wainwright the next day. Mr. J. Smith was the Inspector until 1927 when Mr. Fuller took over. He marvelled at the perfect attendance of the pupils on a day with temperatures reaching as low as fifty degrees below zero. He did not sense that he was the attraction. Annie Kennedy had ridden five miles on horseback.

When grade twelve was added to the high school a second room was opened in the basement and was named the dungeon. Mr. Olaf Larson became assistant principal and remained in Irma until 1940. During this time a district Teachers' Association was formed with Mr. Reeds as president.

After we used the dungeon for a number of years another room was added. This building was later moved to Passchendale. Mr. Donald Gunn came in 1943 and taught in Irma until 1972.

By the late thirties the Wainwright School Division was formed which took in Irma and all surrounding country schools. By 1947 Silver Lane and Sunny Brae pupils were being bussed into Irma. As more country schools were closed the need for a larger and better equipped school arose.

In 1950 a new eight-room school was built to house both elementary and high school. It had a gymnasium with a stage, an office for the principal and indoor plumbing.

As time went on and more country schools closed a series of additions were necessary. six more classrooms, a typing room, music room, Home Economics room and Industrial Arts room were added. The original auditorium was later converted into a library and science laboratory and a new and bigger auditorium was built.

During the 1960's a maximum school population of three hundred and sixty was reached with a teaching staff of eighteen. Caretakers have been Robert Simmermon, Pryce Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Guiltner, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hockett, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil McBurney and Mr. Ray Lewis. Susan MacDonald handles the chores today. In 1966 Ada Jones was appointed secretary for the school and holds that position today. In 1984 a complete renovation was begun.



Irma Rural High School, 1925.



School Play. The Horse ?, June Frickleton, Bryan Targett, Donna Faye Hockett, Elvina Soneff, Marj Guiltner, Darryl Hockett.



Junior Hockey Team 1946-47 Season. Back Row: Eddie Jackson, Norris Tomlinson, Jack Fletcher, Carl Soneff, Dave Barss, Murry Dawson. Front Row: Ron Currie, Bryan Targett, Don Ramsay, Pete Kozak, Elwood Peterson, Clarence Glover, Stan Hill.



Irma School, Grades One to Four in 1932-33. Teacher is Winnifred Taylor.

Nothing makes time go faster than buying it.



Irma School class - grades five to eight, 1925. Teacher - Mr. J.B. Horn. Back Row: Donald Horn, Kenneth Matheson, Edith Hostrop, Evelyn Herbert, Mr. Horn, (teacher), Ada Edmonds, Grave Love, Wendell Mitchell, Lorne Milburn, Eva Congdon, Gerald Glasgow, Bill Blades, Myrtle Glasgow, Clara Sharkey, Lucille Guiltner, Violet Simmons, Marie Colby, Beulah Blades, Bernie Matheson, Nancy Hewitt, Imogene Colby, Iva Edmonds, Maude Smallwood, Verna Herbert, Dennis Barber, Douglas Hatch, Frank Maguire, Ethel Milburn, Vera Herbert, Eleanor Barber.



Front Row, Seated: Leslie Cooper, Jimmie Guiltner, Mateese, Lyle Raham, Billy Marsden, Glen Pyle, Edward Hardy, Donald Simmermon, Art Pierce. Second Row: Verna Martin, Irma Webb, Betty-Lou Hockett, Lillian Masson, Winnie Thurston, Lena Schlender, Mary Hardy, Joyce Foxwell, Doreen Kennedy, Shirley Enger, Marjorie Guiltner, Vera Mikkelsen. Third Row: Practice teacher Aletha Knudson, Lillian Mikkelsen, Olive Jack, Sheila Bishop, Olive Thurston, Ruby Miles, Clara Ostad, Jean Elford, Mae Guiltner, Verna Mikkelsen, and teacher - Mr. Rae Martin. Last Row: Wesley Pyle, Ernie Carter, Jack Fletcher, Edward Mateese, Carl Soneff, Laurence Cooper, Clarence Glover, Jack McKay.



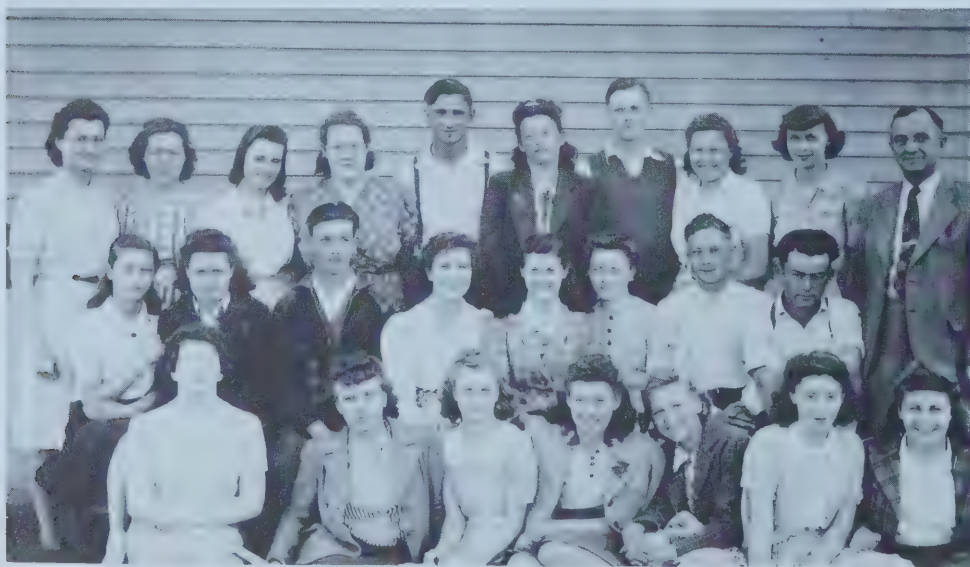
Grades 10-12. Teachers Mr. Reeds and Mr. Gunn. Back Row: Ralph Worthing, Eddie Jackson, Hugh Tomlinson, Bryan Targett, Jack MacKay, Donald Simmerman, Allan Darks. Second Row: (standing) Mr. I.S. Reeds, Shirley Enger, Sheila Coultman, Betty Prior, Alma King, Evelyn Prior, Lillian Masson, June Frickelton, Jennene Archibald, Marney Kennedy, Winnie Thurston, Mr. Donald Gunn. Back Row: (sitting) Lorna Archibald, Donna-Faye Hockett, Irene Larson, Dicksi Rohrer, Josie Saville, Evelyn Oracheski, Norma King, Lonnelle Ramsay. Front Row: (seated) Walter Enger, Darrell Hockett, Andy Oracheski, Henry Lovig, Allan Rae and Melvin Dawson.



1937-38. Back Row: Art Peterson, Hazel Congdon, Louisa Barber, Loretta Savard, Evelyn McRoberts, Asta Lindberg, Agnes Craig, Ethel Arnold, Jean Craig, Cliff Jones, Clarence Carter, Mr. Larson, Havie Elford, Marjorie McFarland, Allison Carter, Margaret Tate, Bob Simmerman, Henry Kasten, Stella Arnold, Melvin Knudson, Mildred Carrington, Percy Congdon, Catherine Patterson, Edna Jones, Paul Bethge, Ruth Reeds, Philip Charter, Abraham Baergen, Evelyn Elford, Dorothy Currie, Betty McLean, Jacqueline Tate, Francis Barss, Mina Currie, Jane Younker, Amy Weiss, Genon Theroux, Jim Soneff, Mr. Reeds, Lloyd Herbert, George Archibald, Geoff Inkin, Lorne Raham, Leo Thurston, Ruby Carrington, Solveig Steffenson, Isabel Craig, Lois Longmire, Susie McKay, Hilda Klassen, Mary Kuzic.



1936-37 - Irma High School. Teachers - Mr. I.S. Reeds and Mr. Olaf Larson. Back Row: Albert Glasgow, Elsie Tweedy, Ralph Congdon, Irma Tweedy, Allison Carter, Nora Long, Muriel Wakefield, Bill Inkin, Marie Weber, Clarence Carter, Harold Gulbraa, Lillian Inkin, Clarence Lovig, Art Larson, Eileen Robertson. Second Row: Mr. Reed, Ethel Arnold, Aletha Knudson, Bob Charter, Margaret Tate, Margaret McLeod, Bob Simmermon, Catherine Patterson, Gordon Blakely, Harry Long, Olive Larson, Cliff Jones, Annetta MacMillan, Art Knudson, Jean Craig, Mr. Larson. Bottom Row: Louisa Barber, Deloraine Stockton, Ruth Reed, Neil MacMillan, Rose Sharkey, Max Webber, Mildred Hill, Arlene Erickson, Paul Bethge, Connie Burton, Arthur Peterson, Agnes Craig, Philip Carter, Ethel Tate, Henry Kasten, Stella Arnold.



High School - June, 1943. Back Row: Miss Hilda McConkey (teacher), Doris Knowles, Hazel Wyand, Audrey Jones, Pete Kozak, Olive Thurston, Havie Elford, Irene Burr, Kay Jones, Mr. Reeds. Second Row: Jean Elford, Gladys Herder, Curtis Satre, Vera Simmermon, Ada Currie, Edna Arnold, Jack Stead, Lloyd Herbert. Front Row: Olive Jack, Isabel Fuckso, Mina Hill, Hazel Herder, Lillian Mikkelson, Margery McKean, Vera Blakely.

A. T. A. DISTRICT LOCAL ORGANIZED HERE

1936

The organization meeting of a district local of the Alberta Teachers' Association was very successfully held in Hedley's hall, Irma, on Saturday, June 13th.

Teachers were present from the districts of Wainwright to Viking inclusive. Also present were Mr. J. Smith of Paradise Valley, Mr. Welch of Edgerton and Mr. Clark from Edmonton.

Mr. I. S. Reeds was chosen president of the newly formed Wainwright-Viking local. Mr. Dean, vice-president, Mr. Geo. Taylor, secretary-treasurer, and Miss Wittmann press correspondent.

Mr. J. Smith gave a very interesting talk on the work of the boundary local and benefits to be derived from such an organization, both through the co-operation of the trustees and parents. It was decided to hold a track meet in September at Viking.

Mr. Clark, the guest speaker, gave the teachers some valuable information in regards to the new course and enterprize work to be carried out the next term.

At six o'clock a banquet was served in Hedley's hall by the Women's Institute. Several of the lady teachers spoke as well as the men. The chairman at the banquet and meeting was Mr. R. L. Martin.

A short entertainment was listened to following the banquet, the items being: Miss Verna Martin, song and tap dance, accompanied by Mrs. Caprani-Winkel; Miss Kathleen Jones, a solo, accompanied by Miss Winnifred Taylor; Pianoforte solo by Mrs. Caprani-Winkel. In the evening a dance was successfully held in Kiefer's hall with Coulman's orchestra in attendance.

Better have a good holiday while you can kids! It looks as though the Irma School Board is preparing big things ahead for the coming school year. There is a general air of spring cleaning about the Primary, Intermediate and High School buildings these days. Then early on Tuesday morning the school building from the Sunny Brae S.D. was hauled onto the local campus bringing the total of school buildings up to four.



Irma High School Basketball taken at Lougheed Sports May 24, 1938. Back Row: Mildred Hill, Ethel Arnold, Evelyn Elford, Marie Webber, Margaret Tate, Stella Arnold. Front Row: Jacqueline Tate, Ray Martin (coach), Edna Arnold.



Sunny Brae School moved to Irma 1947, beside first school.

There's only one endeavor in which you can start at the top - and that's digging a hole.



Winners of the Marble Tournament at Irma School: Greg Fischer and Brian Burr in Grade Three.



Graduation Class 1949. Standing, Left to Right: Mr. I.S. Reeds, Irene Larson, Aletha Tomlinson, Doreen Boyd, Alma King, June Frickleton, Henry Lovig, Bryan Targett, Andy Oracheski, Ralph Worthing, Allan Rae, Darrell Hockett, Walter Enger. Sitting in desks: Evelyn Oracheski, Hugh Tomlinson, Alice Enger, June Dallow, Betty Prior, Don Simmerman, Lorna Archibald and Melvin Dawson.

DIVISIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

Dr. H. G. Folkins—Chairman	O. Griffiths—Secretary.
F. E. Dixon	S. Simonson B.Sc., B.Ed.— Superintendent
F. Hill	J. Reid—Repair Man
W. Lawson	Mrs. I. Roach—Librarian
Mrs. A. McLeod	Miss L. Tweedy—Health Nurse
F. Zajic	

IRMA LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD

K. Coffin	C. Smallwood
E. Prosser	A. Charter—Secretary

THE TEACHING STAFF

I. S. Reeds B.A.,—Principal	Mrs. A. Darkes
D. H. Gunn	Miss O. Thurston
N. Bozak B.A.	Miss L. Touchette
Mrs. M. Chase (leave of absence)	Mrs. A. Glasgow (substitute staff)

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Rev. H. Inglis—President.	Committee:
Mrs. R. Larson—Vice- President.	D. Gunn
I. S. Reeds—Secretary.	F. Hill
	Mrs. A. Darkes
	R. Dempsey
	Mrs. W. Frickleton



Irma School - 1950.

New School Is Opened At Ceremony

Official opening Irma School - 1950.

IRMA.—A pleasing program was presented here recently at the official opening of a new school, the affair being well attended.

F. Hill, of the divisional board, was chairman and invocation was given by Rev. H. W. Inglis. Doreen Simmermon gave a vocal solo and greetings were received from C. P. Jones, mayor of Irma; and C. Smallwood was spokesman from the Irma School Board. Elvina Soneff gave a piano solo and Shirley Pyle and Reta Fenton a duet.

Principal I. S. Reeds addressed the gathering and Jack Simmonds, president of the students' union spoke and voiced the appreciation of the students.

Former pupils of Mr. Reeds presented him and the school with a combination radio and record player. Mrs. Martin Enger, the former Georgina Fenton and member of Mr. Reeds' first high school class, made the presentation.

Guest speaker was Dr. W. H. Swift of the provincial government, department of education. He also presented governor-general's medal to Eric Dallow, of the Irma district.



Irma School Staff in May, 1959. Left to Right: Margaret Millar, Kay Clumstad, Marjorie Fischer, Elsie McRoberts, Marion Murray, Kate Younker, Lucille Touchette, Gertrude Matthew, Cynthia Ballentine, Louisa Prosser, Allan Ronaghan and Donald Gunn.



Irma teachers: Mrs. Chase, Sam Gordon, Mrs. Darkes, Mr. Gunn, Miss Touchette and Mr. Reeds.



Teacher's convention at Vermilion. Left to Right: Margaret Millar, Kay Clumstad, Orril Darling, Marion Murray, Verdun Anderson, Elsie McRoberts and Kate (Younker) Green.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

March 17, 1924
"Posunt quia posse videntur".

Rheba Coker and Maude Inkin are back at school again, after an absence of several days.

Our good friend Eric tried to teach his faithful old Dobbin to skate the other morning. The attempt was not a success; it was, in fact, a decided failure. Dobbin skidded sharply, and Eric found himself on his back on the ice. We would advise Eric to supply Dobbin with a set of chains, and:

"When Eric next doth try this stunt,

May we be there to see."

A baseball team representing the Irma High School will be in the field as soon as the season opens.

Mr. T. Derman took some pictures of the school.

Four new desks have arrived. Hurrah!

The High School and Trail Ranger hockey teams played the Wainwright teams last Saturday. Both teams lost. The score was 9 to 2 and 2 to 0 respectively. The Trail Rangers put up a great fight, as Wainwright got their two goals in ten minutes of overtime. Two of the High School players did not arrive, and one was late. Had these players been on the ice, Wainwright would have found it a little harder travelling. They are a fast bunch of boys, alright, and earned their win.



Mr. Donald H. Gunn at his desk in the Irma School.

TAKE TIME

Take time to think - it is the source of power.
Take time to play - it is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time to read - it is the fountain of knowledge.
Take time to pray - it is the greatest power on earth.
Take time to love and be loved - it is a God-given privilege.
Take time to be friendly - it is the road to happiness.
Take time to laugh - it is the music of the soul.
Take time to laugh - it is the music of the soul.
Take time to give - it is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to work - it is the price of success.
Take time to show appreciation - it is the frosting on the cake of life.
Take time to dream - it is hitching your wagon to a star.
Take time to do charity - it is the key to heaven.
Take time to plan - it is the secret of being able to have time for the first twelve things.



Irma School Staff - 1972. Back Row: Aletha Glasgow, Neil Nysetvold, Elsie McRoberts, Charlie Allen, Kay Clumstad, Keith Cornish, Orril Darling, Al Spinaze. Front Row: Marjorie Fischer, Bette Desjarlis, Genon Astley, Feona Spinaze, Ruth Archibald, Cynthia Ballentine, Louisa Prosser, Ada Jones (secretary), Barbara Froland.

FRIENDSHIP

If nobody smiled and nobody cheered,
 And nobody helped us along;
 If each individual looked after himself,
 And the good things all went to the strong;
 If nobody cared just a little for you,
 And nobody thought about me;
 If we stood all alone in the battle of Life,
 What a dreary old world it would be.

Life's sweeter because of the friends we have made,
 And the things which in common we share;
 We want to live on, not because of ourselves,
 But because of the people who care;
 It's giving and doing for somebody else,
 On that all Life's splendor depends;
 And the joy of the world, when it's all added up,
 Is found in the making of friends.



Above: Irma School Band 1976.



Left: Irma School Band 1985, Wainwright Stampede.



Irma School Band, 1963-64. Back Row: Geraldine Lewis, Joyce Dunbar, Beverly Prior, Darlene Hockett, Barry Long, Michael Crozier, Aletha Glasgow, Carol Oldham, Norma Dootson, Gail Whidden, Maureen Gunn, Gloria Savard, Linda Prosser. Front Row: Marlyn Matthew, Edna Crabb, Bobby Ann Kirkman, Gayle Sampson, Margaret Glasgow, Alan McRoberts, Douglas Coffin, Rick Guiltner, Arthur Jack.

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JARROW HISTORY

By 1910 the Grand Trunk Railway was running through the hamlet. A station had been built and the railway officials named it Jarrow. There were no passenger cars so you rode in the caboose to Wainwright. With the trains going through Jarrow the post office was moved from Metropolitan to the hamlet.

Nils Lindholm built a lumber yard and started in the lumber business. He also built two stores. The Jackson brothers were the earliest businessmen. They built a livery barn and also had a small store. They dealt in dry goods, boots, shoes, groceries, Oliver plows, Peerless incubators and cream separators. Other early merchants were Mr. Fumerton and R.E. Westbrook.

There was a doctor in Jarrow in 1911. The church was built in 1911 by donated labor. On the building committee were J. Wyatt, Mr. Fumerton, Reverend Philips and F.E. Townsend. Mr. Richards was the first minister. He lived with J.M. Moores.

Jarrow sports day was held on the 3rd of June. pony races, horse races, automobile races, oxen races and ball games entertained everyone. A dance in the evening completed a gala time.

JARROW MEMORIES

by Jean Matthew

JARROW 1919-1934

Jarrow was a prosperous town. It was a cattle shipping point and also had three elevators for the farmers in the outlying districts to ship their grain.

Jarrow like all small towns had one main street, which consisted of: two retail merchandising stores, Holloways

and Manors. These stores changed hands many times over the years. Some of the owners were: The Curletts, Jim Miller and Bill Boyd. There was a lumber yard - creamery - blacksmith shop - bank - post office - hotel - station - garage - barber shop - dray service - livery station - church - school - community hall.

Some of the families living in Jarrow during that time were: lumber yard - Mr. Sager; dray service - Mr. Triekel; livery stable - Arnold Christenson; post office - Mr. Bamsey and Hales Barton; hotel - Mrs. Orr; station - Mr. Nichols; garage - Harold McDougal; Church - Mr. Cantelon; bank - Stan Bridgeman; barber shop - Bill Matthew. School - some of the teachers over the years were: Mr. Code, Daisy Johnson, Mary McKay, Marg Dinwoodie, Peter McNab, Hales Barton, Helen Doherty. Elevator agents: Mr. Sheldon, Milton Orr, Harry Simons, Norman Luxton, Bob Northey, Warren Coughlin, Allen Harper.

School - some of the pupils 1919-1930: Hans and Howard Jamieson; Olga and Henry Triekel; Eileen and Gladys Meakins; Lil Meakins; Aubyn and Veda Marbry; Avis and Elvin Christenson; Irene Nichols; Sylvia and Hart Cantelon; Marshall Burns; Roland Bick; Myrtle, Edna, Ralph and Ethel Peet; Marion Matthews; the Sayer children; the Morgans; the Kowaliks; Dorothy and Wesley Orr; Jean, Jim and Gordon (Scotty) Matthew.



Buildings on the main street of Jarrow in 1913.



Jarrow Main Street - 1915.



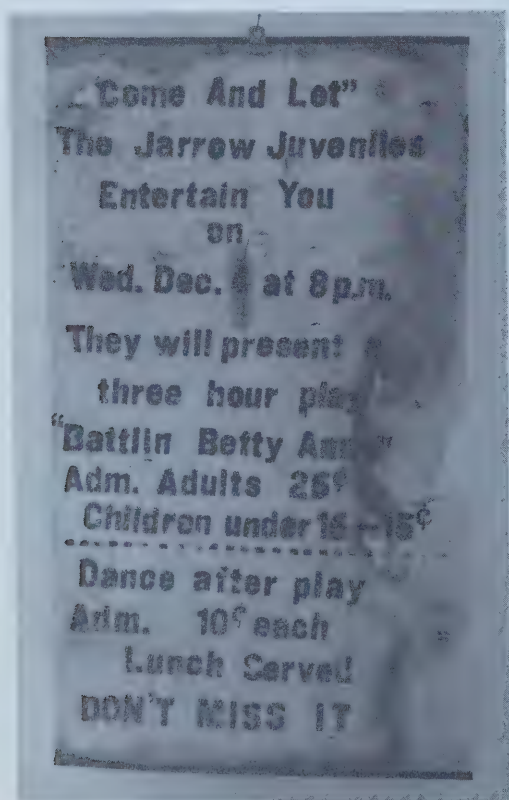
Alberta Pacific elevator at Jarrow, December 3rd, 1923.



Jarrow Wheat Pool elevator.



Jarrow sports day.



1937 poster at Jarrow.



Paul Loring at Jarrow in 1913.



Jarrow United Church.

Back Row: Jarrow W.A. - Mrs. Swingen, Ida Bridgeman, Mrs. Theroux, Irma Soneff, Alice Overby, Margaret Smith, Hattie Brown, Florence Whidden, Emma Mark, Marjorie Oracheski, Mrs. Beer and Mildred Bridgeman. Front Row: Carolyn Swingen, Faye Smith, Stella Bridgeman, Francis Matthew and baby Soneff.



Bert Smith, Stella Bridgeman and Faye Smith in the Irma Parade, 1957.



Jarrow Sunday School taken at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Waite in late 1920's or early 1930's. Back Row: Aubyn Marbry, Jean Matthew, Mrs. Hales Barton, Mrs. Jessie McCracken, Mrs. Waite. Middle Row: Charles Jenkins, Raymond Lisson, _____, Avis Christenson, Harold Lisson, Veda Marbry, Jim Matthew, Dorothy Orr, _____, Alven Christenson, Scotty (Gordon) Matthew, Ethel Orr, Wendal Orr. Front Row: _____, Mrs. Charles Jenkins (formerly Daisy Kennedy), _____, Wesley Orr, _____, Charles Lisson and Mrs. Harold McDougal.



by Bill Boyd

In the forties people started moving out to the surrounding towns. I lived there for eighteen years, served on all the boards and was secretary of the community hall. Driving past on Highway fourteen today, it's hard to believe that so many activities once took place in the now almost deserted Hamlet of Jarrow.



Wm. BOYD

DRY GOODS
I. H. C.
IMPLEMENTS

GROCERIES
— FRESH MEATS —

HARDWARE
IMPERIAL
OILS & GAS

Jarrow, Alta., 194

M

Account Forwarded			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			

...BOUGHT OF...

DATE, _____ 192____

Account Forwarded

1.25



Hauling grain into the elevator.



Old Jarrow Post Office with Cathy and Mark Lusk in front.



Jarrow station about 1912, Mr. R.E. Westbrook and daughter Ruby on the platform.

Jarrow in 1915.



June 26, 1931 - Mr. L.M. Groves of Irma is opening a new store to be run under the Red and White System in the Miller Building in Jarrow.



Jarrow Ball Team 1920. Back Row: Harry Bick, Harold Whidden, Leslie Moore. Centre Row: Aubrey Whidden, Ray Moore, Virgil Anderson. Front Row: Otis Parriot, Bill Murray, Earl Moore



Lily Anderson, Warren Lindquist, Olga Lindquist.



Eileen Meakins, Bessie Allen and Gladys Meakins.

April 21, 1922 JARROW

Despite the unfavourable condition, of the weather a goodly crowd was in attendance at Batts' school on Wednesday, April 12th, when an excellent programme was rendered.

Johnnie Therou started the ball rolling in the opening recitation, "Towser Shant be Tied Tonight." Johnnie is winning a name for himself as a speaker. A solo was beautifully rendered by Mr. W. Kerns, (encored.) The three act drama, "Tompkins Hired Man," came next and was certainly appreciated by all. The cast of characters are:

Mr. Tompkins	Earl Denison
Mrs. Tompkins.....	Mrs. Earl Moore
Julia Tompkins	Lydia Denison
Louise Tompkins	Mrs. Geo. Therou
Ruthie	Laura MacKinnon
Dixie	A. E. Shroeder
John Remington	G. Therou
Jerry	Willie Therou

Pa Tompkins played the part of the stern father bringing up two daughters while Ma Tompkins seemed to take more than her share of the family's responsibility. Louise, the dutiful daughter, appeared willing to marry anyone the family wished—while Julia the younger showed the ill-temper commonly known to the baby of the family. Ruthie, the "cut-up" strange to say appeared to patch up the family squabbles in her masterful manner.

John Remington, the ardent lover, played his part as few young men of the present generation can do. Jerry did justice to the doughnuts for the many errands he performed. Dixie, (the star player) proved himself second to none as a "hired man." Every married lady present wished their husbands would hire such a capable person.

Between acts instrumental music was pleasingly rendered by the Misses Gladys and Ella Smith.

The dialogues "Physical Torture" Club, and "The Excited Hollander," given by the pupils of Batts' school kept the audience in a continual roar of laughter.

We understand that this performance is to be repeated on Friday, April 28th. A good treat is in store for those who attend.

Miss G. MacKinnon, teacher, Philips, spent the Easter holidays with sisters and mother at Seldom Inn, Jarrow.

JARROW SCHOOL

Mr. Vic Reid, Kinsella, paid a flying visit to Batts on Monday evening. Wonder why?

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Therou, Batts, were the guests of Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Kinsella.

Miss L. MacNeil, teacher, Jarrow, spent her Easter holidays with friends in Edmonton.

The many friends of Mr. Willie Therou, Jr., regret to learn that he is indisposed the last few days. His friends wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Earl and Ezra Denison spent Sunday at Ross.

Mr. A. Kiwalik, Philips, and family moved to Jarrow where they will reside.

Mrs. John Therou entertained a number of friends on Sunday.

Mrs. E. Miller, Kinsella, spent Tuesday at Seldom Inn, the guest of Mrs. MacDougall.

We understand the Batchelor Girls' Club is being dissolved as a number of the members have deserted—having drifted into the sea of matrimony and there are rumors that others are soon to follow in their footsteps.

Mrs. Earl Moore had a number of friends visit her on Monday.

Mrs. Geo. Smith is recovering from her recent illness.

Seeding is well in progress in the Valley and everyone is looking forward for a bounteous crop.

The good wishes of the community are extended to Mr. and Mrs. H. McDougall who were married last week.

Mr. Ward Mathews, who spent Sunday at Lynx, was delighted with his visit and speaks in glowing terms of the kindness extended to him.

Jarrow school number 2450 was built in 1912 by Lambie and Rainie. In 1911 school had been held in the church with Mr. Nelson Tweedy who lived in the Melbrae district as teacher. The board was made up of Mr. Lindholm and Mr. R.E. Westbrook. Nineteen pupils made up the first enrolment.

To purchase the required desks two hundred and fifty dollars was borrowed from the bank. To repay this taxes of twenty-five cents per lot were collected. The Department of Education, represented by the Inspector of schools, took over the running of it. The school district was assessed as a village district. In order to collect the remainder owing, the Inspector went to the property owners and seized oxen, cattle, watertanks - whatever was available. This put the district into good standing so no taxes were collected for two years.

Other school board members were Mr. Tillman, Mr. Charles Knowles with George Theroux as Secretary-Treasurer. Later Mr. R.T. Meakins, Tom Overbo and Arthur Overby officiated. The school board in 1955 consisted of Lawrence White, Percy Wright and Gordon Meakins.

For the first few years school was held from January to September. In 1916 Miss O. Knudson (Mrs. George Theroux) was responsible for raising funds to buy a school bell. A basket social was held as well as a drive for donations. The bell was bought. While waiting to be hung in its rightful place on high it was stored in the school. One Hallowe'en night some "energetic folk" made off with the bell. After much searching the missing article was located and soon hung merrily calling the pupils to school.

Teachers included Miss Brickman, Miss Doris Smith, Miss Olivia Knudson (Mrs. George Theroux), Mrs. Victor Manners, D.G. Code, Mr. Dinwoodie, Mr. Dockerty, Mr. McNabb, Thomas Edmunds, Elfrieda and Lucille MacNeill (a high school was opened over the store), Mr. Hales Barton, Margaret Johnson, Anne Watt, Mary McKay, Daisy Kennedy, Mrs. Jenkins, Edith Hart, Mrs. Olive Sather, Mrs. Wm. Meakins, Genon Theroux (Astley), Mrs. Doris Likness, Mrs. Ella McRoberts, Mr. Derocher, Mrs. M. Millar. Mrs. Likness took over again in 1955 until the school was closed in 1958. In September, 1955 some pupils were bussed to Irma and the remainder went in 1958. In 1961 the Avonglen Mission purchased the Jarrow school building and moved it to their community where it serves as a church.

Mrs. Matthew was school caretaker until the early thirties. Mr. Joe Petzman took over until the school was closed.

A boss is someone who is early when you're late and late when you're early.



Jarrow School - 1947.



Jarrow School Pupils 1930.



Jarrow School about 1943. Vivian Overby, Harold Boyd, Helen Meakins, Mac Belton, Verla Lind, Vergil Micheal, Bud Beer, Allan Rae, Freda Belton, Doreen Boyd, Henry Lovig, Clifford Overbo, Arthur Boyd. Pete Belton, Norman Meakins, Edward Overbo, Grant Lind, _____.



Jarrow School class of 1948 having a weiner roast following a yard cleanup.



Betty Beer, Dorothy McLaughlin, Judy Sather, Jim Beer, Grant Lind, Pete Belton, Leonard Skori, Clifford Wright, Norman Lovig, Clifton White, Hugh McGlaughlin, Gordon White, Noreen Skori, Gloria Matthew, Freda Belton. Teacher Olive Sather.



Carolyn Swingen, Freda Belton, Gloria Matthews, Mrs. Millar, Gordon White, Clifton White, Bill Millar, Clifford Wright, Leonard Skori, George Millar, Bobby Sherman, Terry Meakins, Sharon Meakins, Pat Matthew, Dianne Young, Linda Meakins, Marlyn Matthew, Wayne Ronjom, Garry Lovig, 1952.



Jarrow School - 1948.

Key - Information re homesteaders got from Prov Archives.

▲ - Homesteader

○ - Original Owner of

■ School Site

non-homestead land

Pre.s. Script land

Po Present (44 - 9) owner

(44-8)

Po J Pasztor 23 J. J. S. Po J Reber	▲ Fred McL Hill Aug 1911 Po W M C ▲ Claude Lewis Apr 1909 Po W M C	▲ Mike Rubenok Aug 1910 Po W M C ○ W C P R Reber W M C ○ F. White → W M C	▲ George Rubenok July 1911 Po W M C ▲ Jas. S. Armstrong Feb 1927 Po W M C ▲ John J. Armstrong June 1913 Po W M C	▲ Henry Alm Oct 1912 Po W M C ▲ S. A. V. Oscar H. Alm Dec 1908 Po W M C ▲ Joe Rubenok Nov 1910 Po W M C	
▲ J. J. P. Son 7 May 1907 14 ▲ Fred 4 14 Brown	○ Mrs. E. Voros W M C ○ Jim Voros Po W M C	▲ Jesse J. Ross May 1907 Po W M C Pre S. Hill May 1912 Po W M C	▲ Jas. M. Bride Dec 1913 Po W M C ▲ Wm. T. Hill May 1912 Po W M C Hudson Bay	▲ Mrs. J. Armstrong Po W M C 17 Po W M C 8	
▲ Jasper Ward 1914 Po J. Pasztor ▲ John G. Gadd 1911 Po J. Pasztor ▲ Hattie Leforgie 1911 Po J. Pasztor Po Crown	▲ Jim Voros Apr 1910 Po W M C ▲ Joseph Cahian Feb 1910 Po W M C ○ J. P. R. W. Reber Po W M C Po W M C	▲ Sam Stone 1911 Po W M C ○ W M C 44-6	▲ Abram Hacher May 1907 Po W M C ▲ Louis Hanson May 1907 Po W M C	Wainwright Military Camp	

Originally was
Buffalo Park.
After 1940
now is.

Wainwright
Military
Camp

Wainwright Military Camp also
owns. All of 44-8 and Sections
1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 36 of 44-9 as of
1983.

Lewisville sp.3041

HISTORY OF LEWISVILLE DISTRICT

One of the first homesteaders of Lewisville district was Jack Armstrong. His land was situated on the east side of the Battle River near to the Buffalo Park. Henry Alm was a bachelor who lived for many years in the river valley and was a good neighbor to all. Some families living for short periods in the district before 1920 were: Lewis, Nutt, Hutchison, Gower, Bishop and Jim McBride. W.T. Hill farmed in Lewisville prior to 1915. The Szoke family were early settlers as well. Two Voros families, Pete and Jim, were pioneers of the pre-twenties. George Krozier homesteaded on the east bank of the river prior to 1915. George and Gladys Rubenok came to Lewisville district as newlyweds around 1918. The Sanders built a home in 1915 on 29-44-8 across the river from H. Alm and down the hill from George Rubenok. Mr. and Mrs. Emil Skogg homesteaded on the east side of the river around 1915. E.J. "Bud" Cotton was a rider in Buffalo Park from 1913 on. He had a neat cabin just inside the park fence and across from the Armstrong farm. The Buffalo Park was closed in 1940 and the area taken over by the Department of National Defence so there is nobody living in that area today.



1934 - Louis Voros.



Lewisville District - 1927-38, showing school grounds.



Frank Voros - 1938.

Lewisville.

March 17, 1922.

Mrs. E. T. Cotton and infant daughter Della, has returned to the lodge at Rockyford gate after a pleasant visit at her parents home (Mr. Wm. Pigeon's) at Wainwright.

Owen Pigeon, of Wainwright is visiting friends in the district and helping the boys chase the puck around on the river.

Mrs. J. J. Armstrong met with a very painful accident, upsetting a kettle of boiling water over her feet.

The dance on Friday March 3rd, in aid of the Athletic Society was a decided success and a tidy sum was realized.

Miss Johnson our teacher left on Friday morning, March 10th to go to Barons to play on the Commercial Grad's team of Edmonton for the amateur Championship in Basketball. Not long ago she played with the same team against the Varsity team in Edmonton.

For the information of the Hawkins correspondent we might mention that we have interviewed the new Councillor and he is very much in favor of a road to Hawkins and will further any movement in that direction.

August 18, 1922
LEWISVILLE

Rye cutting is done, wheat and oats in full swing. Rye is a splendid showing, wheat better than last year, oats not nearly as good.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Sanders and family are moving to a farm close to Irma, known as the Sawyer farm.

Road work under John Gano has tremendously improved the road to Fabyan.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Boyd (nee Lizzie Rubenok), and daughter have been visiting at Joe Rubenok's. Earl is an employee of Ramsay's in Edmonton.

The big oil derrick at Fabyan looms up, blackened and business-like.

Henry Alm's watch which he lost in his pasture field over fourteen months ago was found by Emil Skogg, chain and all, bright as just out of the store—only the crystal broken. It was wound after finding and started going, merrily as you please. It is a high-grade Waltham.

The Park fence gang have been busy going around in their motor truck, replacing rotten fence posts, etc. They moved the Park fence back at the grade coming out of the Battle River. The foreman is "Hughie" Cameron. Owen and Guy Pigeon are on the gang.

Leslie Gower, an ex-resident of Lewisville, is working at John Worthington's.

Norman King, Will Reber, and all other threshermen around have their men bespoken and lined up ready for the grand rush of threshing, which will soon be on.

A visitor to England was asked "Where is Canada? Is it near Montreal?" Also Miss Cera Hind was forced to register as an alien in an English hotel because the people didn't know about Canada. One newspaper thinks this the fault of the Canadian Immigration Authorities. It would never do to blame it on the English School System. We learn Geography in school over here—that's how we know the names and location of certain little islands.

Mr. Wm. Lambert and his fiancée of Saskatoon are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Cotton. "Bud" and "Bill" are war-time "buddies",

LEWISVILLE SCHOOL

Lewisville School was built by Henderson Brothers in 1914 on the N.W. 7-44-8 about twelve miles southeast of Irma. In the winter of 1919-20 the school was moved two miles north and east to a site on S.W. 20-44-8 to be near to the populated area of the district. The moving job was done by the local men using twenty-four horses for power. About this time a bridge was built over the Battle River by the new school site.

The school was named for the Lewis families who provided five pupils for the small enrollment. Other names on the register were: Nutt, Reber, Hutchison, Armstrong, Szoke, Sanders, Hill, Gower, Dawson, Voros, Bishop and Kravenchuk. After 1922 more names were added to the register namely: Rubenok, Skogg, Saville, Foreman, Pasztor, Cotton, Johnston and Krozier. The later enrollments included sons and daughters of some of the earlier pupils.

The trustees were: Jack Armstrong as secretary-treasurer, Ollie Lewis, Claude Lewis, William Hutchison, W.T. Hill, T. Sanders, George Rubenok, Henry Alm, E. Scogg, Frank Reber, Cliff Saville and James Armstrong.

The first teacher was Miss Anderson. She was followed by: Miss May Reed, Jean Stevens, Alice Hyde, James McLean, J.O. Rudy and Ina Askin. By 1920 the teacher was Ruby Foss followed by Miss Harris, Miss Daisy Johnson and in 1923 Miss Ethel Milburn was the teacher. Then came Mildred Allen, Margaret Miles, Lucy Lett, Elma Solberg, Etta Woods, Miss Hall, Miss Gladys Siebrasse who taught several years, followed by Max Saville. The last teacher was Miss Ethel Tate in 1940-41.

In 1941 after twenty-seven years of usefulness, the school was closed and the students bussed elsewhere. In 1950 the schoolhouse was moved to Wainwright to become part of the School Division office.



Lewisville School, 1935. Front Row, Left to Right: John Pasztor, Ida Reber, Florence Cotton, Della Cotton. Back Row, Left to Right: Leo Weise, Pearl Stewart, George Voros, Ann Weise, Vera Voros, Margaret Voros, Rose Voros, Florence Burton, Amy Weise.



Lewisville School in 1924.



Lewisville school, 1940 - Teacher - Ethel Tate. David Krozier, Rose Voros, Margaret Krozier, Beatrice Krozier, Toots Reber, Frankie Saville, James Szoke, Audrey Harvey, Josephine Saville, Alex Szoke, Earl Krozier.



John Pasztor on horseback, first day at school in Canada. First time on horseback and fell off after a few yards. (Note the straw roof and pole shed.)

WASHDAY

by Violet Copeland

The sun hung out her washing
This morning; as I rose
I saw the dawn wind swing them high.
Sheer scarves and furbelows
Of apricot and peachglow
Of palest lemon-gold
Of rosy pink, pale amber
And amethyst unfold.
The colours paled and faded;
The morning sky smiled blue,
And as the gold ravelled
I hung my washing, too.

SCHOOL TAX LEVIES FOR 1919

Each school district set its own school tax rate according to their needs. The rate was set per acre. The following scale was taken from the Irma Times, May 16, 1919:

Silver Lane (Bronson) School - 12 cents per acre
Roseberry - 12 cents per acre
Strawberry Plains - 12.5 cents per acre
Sunny Brae - 13.5 cents per acre
Lewisville - 13.75 cents per acre
Ross - 14.5 cents per acre
Education Point - 18.5 cents per acre
Alma Mater - 20.5 cents per acre

THRESHING TIME

*'Tis threshing time, the housewife
Is keyed up to her limit;
She has to serve four meals a day
And there is no money in it.*

*Food must be good and wholesome
And fanciful as well,
For if it lacks right flavors
At the next house they will tell.*

*She brings out her choice pickles,
Jam and jell, the lovely stuff,
She would like to save for winter,
And she hopes they've had enough!*

*And when she isn't cooking
For twelve or fifteen men,
She hunts out all the soiled towels
And rubs them clean again.*

*"We'll finish it tonight," one says,
She hears the welcome sound,
But doesn't let herself relax,
Just hands more food around.*

*She waves to them a glad farewell,
Nor does she shed a tear,
But just begins to wonder,
What she'll feed 'em on next year.*

*A pedestrian is a husband who didn't think the family
needed two cars.*

Wm. 48-10 Geo. Main. 1911 Oct. 1911 PO T. B. Greenwood Greenwood PO Mrs. Lydia m. Low May 1907 PO T. B. Greenwood Greenwood CPR. 35 PO T. B. Greenwood Greenwood PO Wes Bauer C.D. Hollar Hudson Bay Ore. Smart Dec. 1909 PO J.R. Mark PO C.P.R. C.C. L. HOLT MARK PO 23	PO H.G. Smith Wm. Holt PO 26 PO Cecil Lockhart PO 24 PO Jas. R. Brown May 1912 PO Haddon M & ELROY MARK PO 47-10-4 ALMA.	PO Soldier S Board mo. m. Read 1937 PO G. Holt PO 31 PO N.M. Hunter Lynx-3360 PO Julius J. Schroeder APR. 1914 PO N.M. Hunter PO Edwin E. Schroeder Sept. 1913 PO CL Williams PO 30 PO L. MARK PO J. MARK PO 19	PO Geo. C Osborne Oct. 1913 PO G. Holt PO 32 PO S.B. to Owen Devenny Sept. 1914 PO A.E. Ford PO 29 PO Orma R. Marbry Sept. 1913 PO HOLT COLONY PO Chas. G. Holt July 1925 PO HOLT COLONY PO 47-9-4	PO Mrs. C. Murphy May 1914 (Mrs. C. McLead) PO A. Fleming PO 5 PO Archie Fleming PO 33 PO C.H. Barss PO Arthur Woods Sept. 1914 PO C.H. Barss PO Chester Brown APR. 1913 PO Wayne Larson PO 21	PO Oscar Anderson Dec. 1915 PO J.L. Barss PO Joseph Hardy Jan. 1916 PO J.L. Barss PO C.P.R. C.H. Barss PO Stanley Sanders 1915 PO PO Mrs. M. Ambler APR. 1913 PO PO Roy R. Marbry Sept. 1913 PO HOLT COLONY PO Geo. A. Strand June 1914 PO HOLT COLONY
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Lynx-S.D. 3360

LYNX DISTRICT AND SCHOOL

written about 1972 by Mrs. D. Rohrer)

The homesteads in the Lynx area were mostly filed on by 1910 to 1915, the majority of the settlers coming from Eastern Canada and the United States. When the need for a school arose, it was built in 1916 and called Lynx because a lynx had been killed in that area. The school was situated on S.E. 36-47-10, on the top of one of the highest hills in a very hilly area. It was one of the newer cottage type schools and its gleaming white paint often served as a landmark for visiting inspectors who found our prairie trails most confusing. As late as 1940 one of these gentlemen abandoned his car and walked the last part of the way to the school. When it was time to leave, he couldn't find his car and had to recruit the school children to help him locate it and get him started towards the nearest graded road.

The first school board was made up of Joe Ralph, Vern Wilson, Wm. Bridgeman and secretary, Curly Schroeder. The contract for building the school was awarded to Merriam and Arnott of Edmonton. George Bridgeman supplied the stones and helped with the hauling.

The first teacher was Miss Julie Baker of Calgary, who taught eight pupils from the Bridgeman, Bright, Wilson and Faulkner homes. Lynx was a "summer school" operating from March to December, with two week holiday in the summer. This was because of poor road conditions and the long distances pupils had to travel to school. Lynx was never a very large school and was permanently closed in 1943, and the building was later moved to the Holt Hutterite Colony, where it still serves faithfully as a school.

School board members who served through the years, included practically every adult male who lived in the district. Some of these were: Wilson, Brown, Bridgeman, Roberts, Shippy, Osborne, Rohrer, Schroeder, Osborne and Smith.

Some of the teachers through the years were: Mrs. Ella McRoberts, Mrs. Day, Miss McKittrick, Lila Wright, Miss Massing, Mrs. Renolds, Miss Johnson, Mabel Holt, Florence Syson, Gusta Jacobson, Georgina Lee, Louis Aide, Gilbert Creech, Edith McRoberts, Hazel Flewelling, Grace Smith, Catherine Patterson.



Lynx School.



Range land north of Wark's place, 1919.



Claude Shippy with dogs after a gopher.



Rohrer's herd of horses being moved from Buffalo Lake to the Lynx District.



Farmer's day picnic July 5th, 1915 at Browns.

The school was the centre of social activities, an occasional dance, once in awhile a picture show sponsored by one of the grain companies, and of course the annual Christmas Concert followed by a dance. This was the highlight of the year and all the children participated in it. For that one night there was happiness and sociability and all feuds and bad feelings were at bay. Unfortunately this condition didn't prevail all year.

Lynx area was a real mixed farming district as the farms were small, mostly one quarter or a half section. A little grain was raised, some cows milked, chickens and pigs raised. Cream and eggs were sold to meet current household expenses. Sections 11 and 29 were reserved for school land. The Hudson Bay. Co. had section 26 and the balance of the odd numbered sections were owned by the C.P.R. This land was all unfenced and a real boon for pasture and hay land for the farmers.

There is also a legend that this area was known as "Moonshine Valley" and the "Murder Belt". The former name was well justified as some of the settlers sold their crops in liquid form and served time in Fort Saskatchewan jail for so doing. I'm told the murders referred to, were of cattle, and there were those who also served time for using too long a loop and thus profiting from their neighbor's beef.

Names on early voters lists include: Brown, Riley, Wilson, Mark, Bridgeman, Davis, MacKie, Shippy, Bright, Schroeder, Petzman, Ralph, Pace, Osborne, Main, Speers, Campbell, Hardy, Strand, Marbury, Rohrer.

After World War I there was quite an influx of people. Les Roberts and wife came from England. Mrs. Printup and son Ivan, came from Strome with herds of cattle and horses. George Smith brought his livestock from Wainwright, and Colonel Rohrer brought herds of horses and cattle from Stettler. The main attraction in these cases being the open range.

Other names in the district included: Breckenridge, Legace, Hollar, Davenay, Deverick, Greenwood, McKinnon, Ambler and Edmunds.

Conditions have now changed and there is no longer

open range. Much of the land is under cultivation but some of it is still used for pasture and haying. The population has shrunk to a scant six or eight families and the children are bussed to Irma School.

The writer of this story, Lila (Wright) Rohrer, first came to Lynx school as teacher in August 1922, and returned to the district in January 1925, as the bride of R.L. (Dick) Rohrer.



Col. Rohrer cutting grain, 1919.



Dick Rohrer riding Hazel, 1919-20.





Lynx School. Stanley, Donald, Thelma, Gladys, Ken, Rick, Roy, Aubyn.



Lynx School about 1930, Vance Shippy, Fern Shippy, Bob Blaine, Nerine Shippy, Bobby and Herbie Breckenridge and Violet Vandervaate.



Helen Breckenridge, Bob Legacy, Dolly Legacy, Nerine Shippy, Elsie Bridgeman taken at Lynx school.



Lynx School, 1933 - Teacher - Florence Seton. Back Row, Left to Right: Nerine Shippy, Melvin Peterson, Wm. Jerace, Fern Shippy. Middle Row: _____, Bud Pederson, Mike Jerace, Vance Shippy. Front Row: Delores Pederson, Domenik Jerace, Velma Shippy, Arthur Jerace.



Veda Marbury, Iva Edmonds, Nerine Shippy, and Fern Shippy.



Velma, Vance, Nerine and Fern just arriving home from school.

MELBRAE DISTRICT

The Melbrae district is approximately ten miles south of Jarrow. Its first settlers came in around 1904 when the prairies were known as Northwest Territories. At this time the railroad put forth propaganda to lure settlers to the western provinces to make the railroads pay. In addition the winter of 1905 was free of snow and with land open for homesteads, the picture was pleasing indeed. The C.P.R. had been surveyed to pass near to the Melbrae site and that is why the early settlers chose this spot. However, the following year the route was changed to go further south - through Hardisty.

The A.C. Cooper family arrived in 1905 and a Daniels family were already living on a homestead two miles south of where Melbrae was later built. In 1906 Mr. Cooper died from a rupture as he did not get proper medical treatment - the nearest doctor was in Daysland.

The fall of 1906 the Marshall Brown family came from Ontario to homestead on the same section as the Coopers. Mrs. Brown was the former Edith Cooper and mother of Stan Brown, a long-time resident of Irma. Because of high snowbanks it took the Browns a week to get from Daysland to Lougheed by C.P.R. On November 11th, 1906, the Browns were met by Albert Cooper and it took twelve hours to drive the twelve miles to the Cooper place.

During 1906 new families arrived: Mr. and Mrs. Harding, Mr. John Drake, Mr. Donald Mallis, Joe Earlam and the Wilson family homesteaded west of Melbrae.

Stan and Fred Bumpus settled where Cliff Ness lives today. Mr. and Mrs. Westbrook homesteaded the northeast quarter of the Bumpus section. In 1907 Nelson Tweedy homesteaded the northwest of this section and in 1908 his wife, Margaret, moved in. Nelson taught school at Metropolitan, Jarrow and Coal Springs.

In 1908 Charlie Miller homesteaded what Russell Copeland owns today, N.W. 24-44-10. He was a rancher

who ranged cattle from the Battle River to Jarrow. When his sister, Anna, came to keep house for him, she brought an Edison phonograph with cylindrical records, which provided much entertainment.

Later Joe Webb came to the district and worked for Charlie Miller. Then came the Hinkley family, Schiek family and Mr. Scadabough and homesteaded the southeast part of the district. Mr. Schiek was a well-known well driller.

In 1909 three Russell families settled in the northeast area. Jim Russell, father of Bert, who married Mary Thurston, Bill Russell was well-known for drilling wells, and Jack Russell became one of Melbrae's most progressive farmers. Also around 1909 Barney Bjerkholt came in, followed by his brother Halton in 1912. Dan Larson came in around 1912 as well.

The Fluevog family homesteaded northeast of Russells in 1910. Adam Pietz bought the Daniels place in 1910. The Arlands came in 1912 and settled on C.P.R. land.

Phil and Bill Daugherty lived south and west of the school respectively. In 1915 Charlie Miller sold out to Slades, who hired Jim McClements to work for him. After World War I Jim returned with his bride to live on the Scadabough place. The Jack Adams family lived here awhile and for a time a Campbell family lived with Jack Russells before moving to the Glenholm district.

Mr. Res Darkes came in the twenties and in 1925 married the Melbrae school-teacher, Alice Clark. Charlie Robertson later bought the Wilson place. In 1934 Reitans moved onto the place vacated by Robertsons. In 1937 a Hollingsworth family lived on this land.

During the twenties the Edwin Jones family took over the King Jones homestead. The Bill Theroux moved onto the Bumpus place and Bert Parsons moved onto the Jim Russell place in 1930. Also during the thirties Bob Campbell and family lived on the Pietz place.

The first telephone came to the district in 1914 with the central at Lougheed. Church services were held in homes at first with a United Church minister coming from Sedgewick. In the 1930's the Nazarenes held services in the school, followed by United Church services, until the 1960's with the minister coming from Jarrow.

Funerals were held from the homes. Mrs. Cooper was the last funeral held in the Melbrae district. She was buried in Hardisty.

Melbrae had an active Scout troupe under the guidance of Frank Harding. Miss Mills, Harding's housekeeper, was Guide leader for years. A riding club was formed in later years and was active until 1970.



Nanna and Sigurd Fluevog going to Melbrae School.



Dan Larson and Adolph Russell cutting grain.



Bill Russel - Boss, Mrs. Russel, Slim Breckenridge, Carl Lindquist, Bert Harper, Bill Theroux, Fred Bumpus. Front Row: Bill Matthews, Paul Loring, Bill Palmers, Sonny McGregor, George S. Watts.



March 1947 at the Hollinger House - Beatrice holding Carol, Nanna, Irene, Chris, Dicka, Esther and Evelyn Fluevog and Gayle Little.



Threshing Crew 1936 - Bill Miller, Harold Smith, Roy Fuder, Del Smith, Sivert Nilson, Dick Engels and Mark Russell.

MELBRAE SCHOOL

The Melbrae School No. 2777 was built in 1912. At this time it was called Gooseberry Plains, but the Harding family were instrumental in having the name changed to Melbrae, after a district they came from in Scotland. The first teacher was Miss Schnare who taught for two years. The school was closed in the winter if the weather was severe and kept open during the summer.

Members of the first school board were Mr. Henry Harding, Mr. Donald Mallis, with Mr. John Drake as secretary. Later Mr. Fred Bumpus and Alex Harding were trustees. In 1918 J.W. Daugherty was secretary. The last members of the school board were Ludvig Hollinger and Norman Fluevog.

The value of the school library in 1918 was seventy-five dollars. That year eighteen dollars and thirty-two cents worth of books were added.

Some of the first students to attend were: Dicka and Norman Fluevog, Harold Arland and Lenora Pietz. In 1918 eighteen pupils were on the register with Miss Morrow as teacher. The Inspector was Walter Scott.

Teachers of Melbrae include: Miss Schnare, Miss Hazel Freeman, Miss Chapman, Mr. Thompson, Miss Morrow, Miss Lenora Pietz, Miss White, Mr. E. Simpson, Mr. McCracken, Miss Alice Clark, Miss Lora Matthews, Mr. C. Enright, Miss Janet Wilson, Miss Sylvia Lynn, Mr. Harold Lisson, Miss Asta Lindberg and Mrs. Alice Darkes.

In the war years teachers were hard to get, so supervisors were put in the schools to supervise correspondence lessons. Irma Theroux, Anita Lindberg and Illes Dubasz supervised until the school was closed and the students were bussed to Lougheed.

In May of 1972, Melbrae school was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

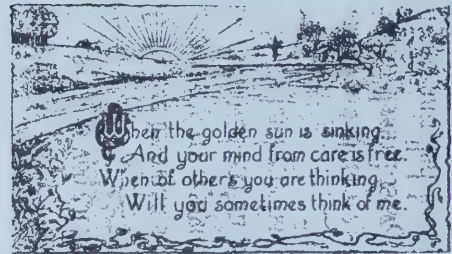
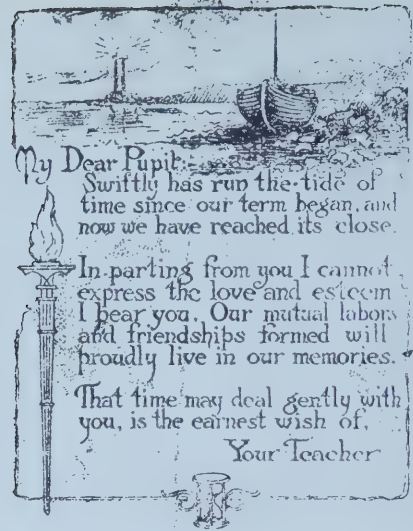
Melbrae, as was most schools, was the centre of entertainment for the community. Dances, card parties, chicken suppers, concerts and ball games were held at the school.

Sweet Slumber

My bed is never quite so soft
Nor quite so warm and snug
As when that fool alarm clock
Lets me know it's morning (Ugh!)



Melbrae School, 1914.



Melbrae Students. Back Row: Theodore Allen, Sherman Allen, Corrine Allen, Lily Hinkey, Ruby Snare (teacher), Russel Harding, Dicka Fluevog. Front Row: Janet Wilson, Alice Wilson, Wilma Wilson, Norman Fluevog.

GOOSEBEERY PLAINS P U B L I C S C H O O L District No. 2777 —○— Lougheed, Alberta, Canada —○— Date of closing, Sept. 17, 1914 —○— RUBY M. SCHNARE, Teacher —○— School Officers Mr. J. Drake, Sec.-Treas. Mr. A. E. Bumpus, Chairman Trustees Mr. F. Hinkey Mr. W. Willson		PUPILS <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Russel Harding</td> <td>Harold Arland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lillie Hinkey</td> <td>Sherwood Allen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corinne Allen</td> <td>Alice Willson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Janet Willson</td> <td>Dicka Fluevog</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theodore Allen</td> <td>Inez Hinkey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norman Fluevog</td> <td>Lillian Tweedie</td> </tr> </table>	Russel Harding	Harold Arland	Lillie Hinkey	Sherwood Allen	Corinne Allen	Alice Willson	Janet Willson	Dicka Fluevog	Theodore Allen	Inez Hinkey	Norman Fluevog	Lillian Tweedie
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Theodore Allen	Inez Hinkey													
Norman Fluevog	Lillian Tweedie													

Memento of Norman Fluevog's school days.

School Days



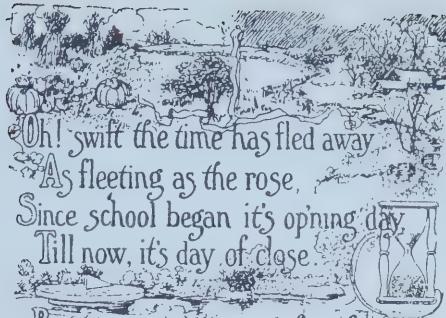
It was autumn when our school resumed
And russet were the leaves;
The stately corn was tassel plumed
And ripened were the sheaves.

And quickened with vacations rest
Resolved our best to do,
We entered school with greater zest
Than hitherto we knew.

And glad we were our mates to meet,
Our good old times review
Our teacher's sunny smile to greet
And all our love renew.

Oh! widely too, we oped our eyes
To our next holiday
When we should eat the pumpkin pies
Of glad Thanksgiving day.

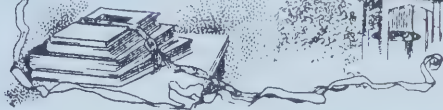
And too, we saw the lengthened ray
Of Bethlehem's bright star
That ushered in the Christmas day
Reflected from afar.



Oh! swift the time has fled away
As fleeting as the rose,
Since school began its opening day
Till now, its day of close.

But we've improved and felt the glow
Of progress truly made
And feel indeed how much we owe
Our teacher's kindly aid.

So here's regards to each and all,
Our sweet farewells till when
Our school bell rings its cheery call,
And brings us back again.



Melbrae School - 1924. Back Row: Beth Arland, Ada Miller, Nannie Fluevog, Eva Hinkey, Tom Tweedy, Joe Adams, Roscoe Hinkey, Orval Hinkey, Harold Tweedy. Front Row: Bernice Tweedy, Helen Arland, Helen Adams, Margaret O'Neill, Sigurd Fluevog, Tommy O'Neill, Johnny Russell.

It's Up to You

Have you made someone happy, or made someone sad,
What have you done with the day that you had?
God gave it to you to do just as you would,
Did you do what was wicked, or do what was good?
Did you lift someone up or push someone down?
Did you lighten some load, or some progress impede,
Did you look for a rose or just gather a weed?
What did you do with your beautiful day,
God gave it to you, did you throw it away?



THAT OLD IRON PUMP

That old iron pump in the school
yard
Brings a rush of memories to me,
And I long to go back to my
childhood,
Though I know it never can be.
I can see that old battered dipper
That we each drank from in turn,
Nor worried about germs or mi-
crobes,
Such things caused us little con-
cern.
I can still hear the creak of the
handle
As we primed it each frosty morn.
And still taste the clear bracing
nectar
That puts city water to scorn.
With a start, I return to the
present,
Turn the tap at my bright shining
sink,
Take a cup from the Dixie dis-
penser
And have a chlorine flavored
drink.
For these things we all should be
grateful,
So perhaps, I am really a chump—
But to-night, I would gladly ex-
change them
For a drink from that old iron
pump.



Melbrae School - 1929-30. Back Row: Adolph Russell, Harry Russell, Bill Miller, Irma Tweedy, Margaret O'Neill, Maureen Miller, Edith Routledge, Irene Robertson, David Robertson, Kathleen Fagin, Beatrice Therou, Tommy O'Neill. Front Row: Clarence Fagin, Leslie McClements, James McClements, Elsie Tweedy, Sadie Fagin, Mark Russell, Marguerite Miller, Ella Russell, Marian Tweedy, Iola O'Neill, Fern Routly, Olive Therou, Florence Russell. Teacher - Janet Wilson.



Melbrae School - 1934. Back Row: David Jones, Richard Fagin, Adolph Russell, James McClements, David Robertson, Irene Robertson, Beatrice Therou, Maureen Miller, Kathleen Fagin, Elsie Tweedy, Leslie McClements, Stanley Therou. Front Row: Ella Russell, Agnes Jones, Marguerite Miller, Olive Therou, Sadie Fagin, Reggie McClements, Clarence Fagin, Leona Miller, Marian Tweedy, Florence Russell, Evelyn Tweedy, Mark Russell. Teacher - Sylvia Lynn.



Melbrae school gymnastics.

Taken from Irma Times - May 29th, 1938: - Last week Mr. R.L. Martin took the junior basketball team to Melbrae, where they played a tie game with the Melbrae juniors. On Tuesday of this week a return match was played in Irma, when the Irma squad finished two points ahead of their opponents. Harold Lisson was teaching Melbrae.



Melbrae School Picninc: Edwin Jones, Alex O'Neill, Maggie O'Neill, Res Darkes, Bob Tweedy, Olive Therou, Sadie Fagen, Agnes Jones, Beatrice Larson, Dicka Hollinger, Iola O'Neill, Margaret Campbell, Josie Therou, Alice Darkes, Emma Russell, Margaret McClements, Jim McClements, Bob Campbell, Reg McClements, Ludvig Hollinger, James McClements, Harry Russell. Middle Row: Lois Darkes, Olive McClements, Marguerite Miller, Asta Lindberg, Ella Russell, Leona Miller, Gordon Hollinger, Dudley O'Neill, Gladys Jones, Lily Jones, Bert Jones, Alan Darkes, Kitty O'Neill, Hazel Therou.



Back Row: Mark Russell, Les McClements, Marion Tweedy, Leona Miller, Iola O'Neill, Marguerite Miller, Elsie Tweedy, Ella Russell, Olive Therou, Evelyn Tweedy, Agnes Jones. Front Row: Reg McClements, Stanley Therou, Lucille Darkes, Florence Russell, Lois Darkes, Olive Reitan, Olive McClements, Adelaide Reitan, Jimmy O'Neill, Nathan Russell, Babe Tweedy, Lester Tweedy, Jack Jones, Percy Jones.



Lester Tweedy, Reg McClements, Stan Therou, Percy Jones, Babe Tweedy, Ella Russell, Lois Darkes, Lucille Darkes, Olive McClements, Leona Miller, Marion Tweedy.



Melbrae School burning after being struck with lightning, May 18th, 1972



THE HOUSE BY HOLLINGER'S HILL

by Violet Copeland

*When you're almost over by Hollinger's Hill
And just around the bend
That's when you came to the empty house
The house that's needing a friend.
There used to be a family there
And a woman who planted trees,
For lilacs huddle beside the door
And maples bend to the breeze.*

*In winter the porch lies blocked with snow
And the curtainless windows frown;
Not a single footprint around the door
When you pass that way to town;
A nice little home with rooms upstairs
But it looks forlorn and chill ...
No dog to bark, nobody who cares
For the house near Hollinger's Hill.*

*When back you come with the weekly mail
And the groceries and news from town,
There, just at the top of Hollinger's Hill
Where the valley stretches down
The little old house is ablaze with lights
Every window sparkles a star
To tell you the family's home again ...
And you know that it's just the car.*

*Reflecting its glow in the empty panes;
It's only reflected light
But it looks so warm and alive again
As you pass in the darkening night,
So lucky: your light is shining bright,
Your home fires are glowing still
To welcome you, as they once used to do
In the house near Hollinger's Hill.*

THE VALUE OF A SMILE

It costs nothing but creates much. It enriches those who receive, without impoverishing those who give. It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None are so rich they can get along without it and none are so poor that they can be made rich by it. It creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business and is the countersign of friends. It is rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or even stolen, for it is something that is no earthly good to anyone until it is given away! And if it ever happens that someone should be too tired to give you a smile may we ask you to leave one of yours? For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have no more to give.

Nobody's opinions are worthless. Even a stopped clock is right twice a day.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT AND SCHOOL

In 1908 under the leadership of Messrs. Jackson, Groner and Meakins, Gopher S.S. No. 1737 was formed. Mr. Edwin Jackson donated one acre of land for the building site on the corner of N.E. 24-45-10.

In June of 1908, Mr. Kinsy, with the help of the Jackson brothers, started building. Supplies were from the Bray Lumber Yard in Sedgewick. Mr. John Meakins did the plaster and masonry work.

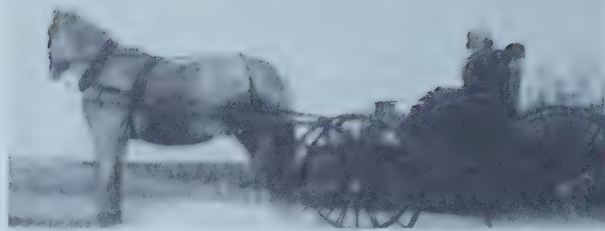
The first teacher, Mr. Nelson Tweedy, received a salary of \$50.00 a month. This was not paid regularly due to the problems of tax collection. At times Mr. Jackson made up the salary from his own pocket.

In December a request was made to change the name from Gopher to Metropolitan. In 1912 it was officially recognized as Metropolitan.

The school year varied in the early years due to weather and the availability of teachers. Some years school was held from January to October. Tuition for pupils and adults outside the district were set at four cents per day in advance.

Taxes were set every year at the discretion of the school board. They varied from five to sixteen and one-half cents per acre. It was the board's duty to collect these taxes. School improvements were added as finances permitted. In 1916 a barn and wood shed were built at a cost of one hundred five dollars and sixty cents.

The Kinsella M.D. No. 424 was formed in 1922. This made tax collecting easier. The teacher's salary could now be paid regularly. In 1936 the Wainwright S.D. took over, and books, pencils and scribblers were supplied.



Bessie Allen going to school - Metropolitan.



Metropolitan Girl Guide Picnic: Mrs. Routledge, Mrs. Heron, Mrs. O. Christenson, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. A. Firkus, Mrs. Albrecht, Mrs. Comley Sr., Shirley Carter, Muriel Carter, Mrs. Comley - Guide Captain, Evelyn Albrecht, Doris Owen, Betty Carter, Morraine Comley, Geraldine Albrecht, Joyce Firkus, Violet Albrecht.



Metropolitan School students around 1922. Arthur Falla was the teacher, third from left. Cullums, Allens, Owens, Kennedys, and Skori were some of the families attending school.



Metropolitan School in the early days.

The only people we should try to get even with are those that have helped us in some way.

No man is a failure who is enjoying life.



Metropolitan Ball Team in 1948: Nick Rawluk, Francis Johnson, Albert Firkus, Robert Bovenkamp, Keith Firkus, William Rawluk, Mike Rawluk, Clifford Firkus, John Heron, George Rawluk, and Bill Yakes.

In 1945 the school board requested that a new school be built. In 1949 the present Metropolitan was opened, remaining in operation until 1956 when the Country of Flagstaff started bussing the children to Loughheed. Mr. Marshall Burns has driven the school bus continuously since that time.

Over this period of 48 years, 34 teachers were hired.

- Mr. Nelson Tweedy
- Mr. Geo. Thompson
- Mr. Arthur Falla
- Mrs. Mina Jackson
- Miss Annie Ottwell
- Mr. Arthur Falla
- Miss Gladys Shephard
- Miss Gertie Asp
- Miss Corrigan
- Miss Nina Young
- Mrs. A. Clark
- Mrs. F. Surry
- Mrs. Ann MacRae
- Miss Alma Hyde
- Mr. Arthur Falla
- Miss Edna Small
- Miss M. Storn
- Miss F. Douglas
- Miss J. Finlayson
- Miss M. Staples
- Mr. Grant Saul
- Miss G.H. Smith
- Miss Emma Johnson
- Miss Doris Gray
- Miss Wakefield
- Miss G.H. Smith
- Mr. Pengally
- Mr. Peter Melnyk
- Mrs. Doris Likness
- Miss E. McDonald
- Miss Olive Thurston
- Mrs. Comley - was the last teacher, teaching for thirteen years until the school was closed.

Some of the early trustees for the district were Edwin Jackson, John Krejzl, Robert Meakins, Mr. Groner, C.B. McKee, Mr. Wyatt, Angus McGregor, Albert Firkus, Guy Jackson, Steve Cullum, W. Fraser, C. Groner, Mr. Albrecht, John Kennedy, A. Christenson and Leonard Owen.

Metropolitan served the district as church for many years. In the very early days home services were held and in 1932, Anglican services started on a regular schedule of either once or twice monthly. The Parish became known as St. George's Mission. The ladies of the district formed a Women's Auxiliary. Many christenings and confirmations were held in the school during these years. During the Second World War services were discontinued, resuming again in later years. In 1966, services were held only occasionally and discontinued completely the following year. Some of the ministers serving the area were Bateman, Anderson, Comley, Flagler, Moorhouse, McDermott and Crawley.

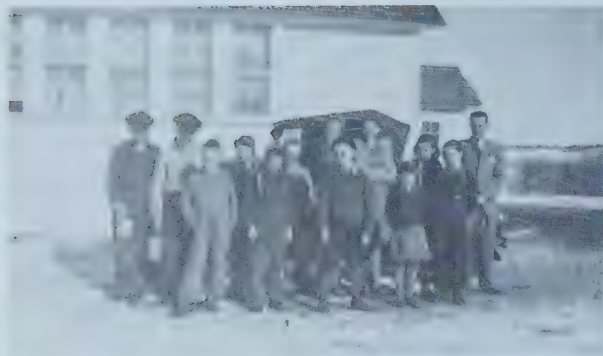
In 1950 a group of district ladies met at the home of Mrs. Comley and formed the Metropolitan Country Club. It's a non-profit organization, which started with sixteen members, and in 1981 had fourteen members. We meet regularly and take on various projects. In 1972, when Jarrow U.C.W. disbanded, we took over the care of Jarrow Cemetery. The proceeds of the sale of Jarrow Hall and many memorials made possible the purchase of wrought iron gates. The care of the Cemetery is now one of our main projects.

After the school closed in 1956, the district was offered the school for recreation if an association were formed and registered. In 1957, twelve members paid ten dollars each to raise the sum needed to start the association. As long as rules are abided, we have a ninety-nine year lease. The school is used for showers, card parties and various meetings and activities.



Congregation of Metropolitan in 1933, Rev. Bateman of Wainwright, minister.

It's Up to You
Life itself can't give you joy
Unless you really will it;
Life just gives you time and space –
It's up to you to fill it.



Mr. Pengally and pupils around 1943.



Metropolitan School.



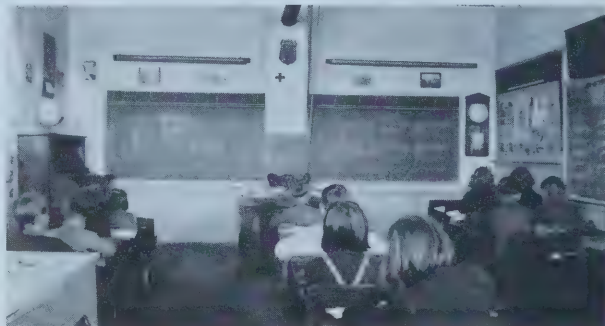
May, 1944. Back Row: Maurice Cullum, Robert Bovencamp, Geraldine Albrecht, Orville Likness, Joyce Firkus, Lawrence Likness, Yvonne Carter, Harold Carter, Wilma Bovencamp, Phyllis Bovencamp, Francis Bovencamp, Norma Likness, Vera Russell, Alfred Russell, Ernie Owen.



One of the last Christmas concerts at Metropolitan. Back Row: Gordon Firkus, Marjorie Rawluk, Pat Rawluk, Ross Burns, Brian Rawluk, Sheila Rawluk, and Lenora Owen.

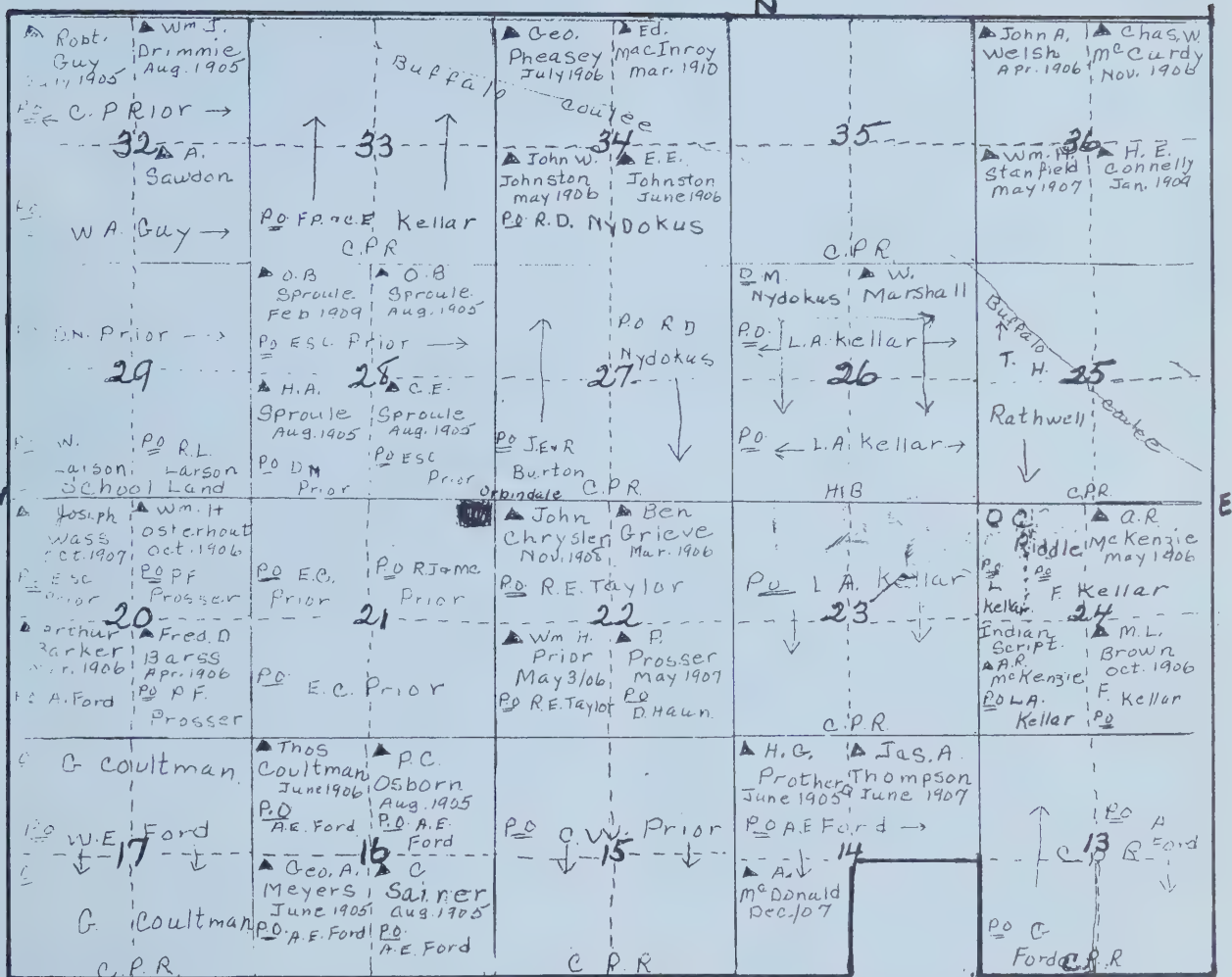


Metropolitan in 1946. Back Row: Nels Peterson, Robert Bovencamp, Harold Carter, Vera Russell, Phyllis Bovencamp, Yvonne Carter, Maurice Cullum, and Miss MacDonald, Alfred Russell, Butch Peterson, Francis Bovencamp, David Russell, Viola Bovencamp, and Ernie Owen.



Metropolitan School.

Orbindale s.d. No. 1723



ALMA. Township P 47-E-4 Information re Homesteaders obtaining from Prov. Archives

Key
 ▲ Homesteader
 P.O Present Owner (as of 1952-53)
 O Original Owner
 ■ School Site
 Non-Homestead Land

ORBINDALE DISTRICT

One of the first districts settled in the Irma area was Orbindale situated in township forty-seven, range eight about fifteen miles north and three miles east of Irma. Apparently there was a rumor at that time that a railroad would be built from Cutknife, Saskatchewan to Edmonton to run through this area. This did not prove true. After the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was built through Wainwright to Edmonton and with the C.N.R. through Mannville, it was thought there were enough railroads to supply the area.

One of the first Orbindale settlers was the Sproule family who arrived in 1906 and homesteaded on section 28-47-8, now owned by Ted Prior. John Sawdon and wife came in 1907 and homestead N.W. 10-47-8. Lavinia, their oldest child born in 1908, was the first baby born in Orbindale district. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coultman with children Flora, Stanton and Garfield, homesteaded section 16-47-8 in 1906. The Orbindale Post Office was located in their home. The first telephone was built on poplar poles from Irma to Coultman's.

In the spring of 1909 Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Prosser, Sherman, Freeman and Melvin settled on section 18-47-8. The only pioneer family still living in the district is the offspring of the William Prior family who came in 1906. He filed on a claim which he later abandoned and returned to Ontario. In the spring of 1907 he returned with his "Settlers' Effects" to homestead N.W. 22-47-8.

Other families who lived in the district for considerable time were: Carl Riddle - N.E. 24-47-8; Ted Dallow - S.E. 20-47-8; John Meyer - S.E. 33-47-8; Jake Meyer - N.E. 28-47-8; Earl Guy - S.E. 32-47-8; George Greer - S.W. 20-47-8; Roy Shotts - S.E. 14-47-8 and Lawrence Savage - N.W. 10-47-8.

Peter Kellar came to the district in 1936 to the N.W. 23-47-8 and his sons still farm in the district. John and Mary Lambert came in 1943, but have since retired to Irma.



Grannie Veitch, Mrs. W. Prior, Eileen Prior, Peggy Veitch, Jean (Prior) Veitch, Martha (Prior) Guy and Elizabeth Prior in 1939.



Ted Prior, Donald Gunn, Babe Prior, Don Mullens, about 1939-40.

ORBINDALE 1918

Mrs. M. Barker, Miss Bessie, Lillian, and Mr. Stanley Barker arrived home Sunday from the coast. Mrs. Barker's health has greatly improved after the trip.

Earl and Gean Prior was visiting at Mr. Coultman Sunday.

Roy Haughan is taking auto lessons.

Chief Hill is unloading a tractor.

J. McNight and W. Milburn are unloading tractors.



Lilian Pheasey, Ann Coultman, Elsie Coultman, Lizzie Prior, Brenda Lukens.



Stan Coultman, Gar Coultman, Art Pheasey, Erle Prior, Francis Lukens and families.

SPORTS IN THE ORBINDALE DISTRICT

From 1915 on an annual picnic was held somewhere in the district. Around 1916-17 the Orbindale baseball club was formed and in the early 1920's a league was organized with Orbindale, Albert, Irma Jr., Silver Lane and Lewisville participating. After the league folded in 1927-28, the club continued as the Orbindale Red Stars. They entered many tournaments held in towns for the next three or four years and had their share of wins. The personnel of this team changed many times as the years went by. Here are some names many will remember: Mel Prosser - short stop; Freeman Prosser - catcher and first base; Stanton Coultman - fielder; Gar Coultman - fielder; Howard Merry - fielder; Alex Maginus - first base; Erle Prior - pitcher and second base; Ted Prior - fielder; Allen Rutherford - second base; Ottis Perriot - catcher; Herb Larson - first base; Charlie Archibald - catcher; Allan Harper - any position; Earl and Frank Guy - fielders; Floyd Maine - catcher; Fred Proudfoot -

catcher; Francis Lukens - first base; Bob Lukens - second base; Ralph Lukens - fielder.

The ladies of the district were not to be outdone. Even though there were only seven girls in the area, they formed a team and played at local picnics against other pick-up teams, Wildwood, Saulteaux, Rodino, etc. They played for two years winning quite a number of games. Those who played were: Mabel Lymburner, Nellie McTavish, Lizzie McCreddie, May Marshall, Gwen Hallet, Martha Prior and Dorothy Bramley-Moore.

HOCKEY

In the early 1930's hockey and skating became the sport for wintertime. Many young people began skating on a slough behind William Prior's home after a February thaw. The following year they put in twelve inch high boards around to form a so-called hockey rink where the members of the district played amongst themselves. The next winter high boards were added to make a regulation size rink. Surrounding communities began building their own rinks and shortly after a league was formed consisting of Orbindale, Albert, Saulteaux, Passchendale, Roseberry and Alma Mater. The Wild Fire Coal Company donated a cup for competition. For the most time Jack Fletcher of Irma was president and Donald Gunn secretary. The league disbanded when World War II began.



Orbindale Girls' ball team, 1925. Back Row: Mable Lymburner, Nellie McTavish, Elizabeth McCreddie, Mary Marshall. Front Row: Gwen Hallet, Martha Prior, Dorothy Bramley-Moore (teacher).

Women can never be as successful as men; they have no wives to advise them.

Before credit cards we always knew exactly how much we were broke.

Orbindale Men's ball team, 1925. Back Row: Freeman Prosser, Gar Coultman, Erle Prior, Frank Guy, Alex McGuiness. Front Row: Charlie Archibald, Stanton Coultman, Earl Guy, Howard Merry.



ORBINDALE SCHOOL



The Orbindale Red Stars Ball team about 1931. Front Row: Bill Prior, Bob Lukens, ??. Back Row: Francis Lukens, Shortie Prosser, Fred Proudfoot, Ted Prior, Babe Prior. Missing are: Bob Maguire, George Fischer, Herb Larson.



Orbindale Hockey Team in 1938: Wesley Parsons, Gar Coultman, Erle Prior, Melvin Prosser, Francis Lukens, Don Mullins, Francis Meyers, Frank Kellar, Walter Glover.

1939-40. Back Row: Bill Patterson, Francis Meyer, Wes Parsons, Lawrence Savage, Erle Prior, Francis Lukens, Walter Glover, Linus Meyer, Howard Parsons, Bob Whitely, Gerald Meyer, Leonard Parsons, Frank Kellar.



The Orbindale school district number 1723 was named after the first two school age boys, Orbin Sproule and Dale Johnston, who came to the district. Mr. Sproule Sr., Mr. Johnston and Mr. Coultman Sr. were mainly responsible for organizing and erecting the school in 1909. James Craig Sr. was engaged as carpenter and the school located on N.E. 21-47-8 opened January 1st, 1910. This being the first school in township forty-seven, children came for several miles to attend.

Some of the first pupils to attend the school were: Freddie Stephenson, Roy Moulton, Bruce Osterhout, Dale Johnston, Irskin Kail, Orbin Sproule, Lester Brown and his brother, Stanton and Gar Coultman, Sherman and Freeman Prosser and Vera and Royden Chryslar.

Miss Marshall was the first teacher. Others who taught were: Mr. Chippmen, Miss DeMille, Mr. Purden, Miss Green, Miss Parson, Mr. Baggs, Mr. Bruce, Miss Osterland, Miss Hurlbert, Miss Briggs, Mr. Barkwell, Miss Gunston, Mrs. DeTro, Miss Hart, Miss Murray, Miss McLeod, Miss Atkinson, Miss McLean, Mr. Gunn, Miss Frederking, Miss Jackson, Miss Horn, Miss Fucsko, Miss Erickson, Miss Fath and Mrs. Ballentine.

In the 1950's when teachers were scarce Miss Yvonne Carter and Miss Betty Prior supervised at Orbindale. Many of the teachers taught only a six month term but two that gave very good service were Mr. Donald Gunn and Miss Jean McLean, who each taught for a period of five and one-half years.

Following is a list of members of the school board: Mr. Sproule, Sr., Mr. Johnstone Sr., Mr. Coultman Sr., Mr. A. Barker, Mr. William Prior, Mr. A. Lymburner, Mr. R. Marquis, Mr. M. Wallhund, Mr. E. Guy, Mr. E. Prior, Mr. S. Coultman, Mr. J. Meyer, Mr. M. Prosser, Mr. T. Prior, Mr. L. Savage and Mr. F. Kellar.

The Orbindale school was closed in June, 1954 at which time the children were bussed to Albert Centralized School. The Tri-Way Organization bought the school with the intention to join it with other schools for a community centre. Erle and Ron Prior bought the Orbindale school in 1971. At present the building is in Ron Prior's yard where he uses it for a shop.



Orbindale School.



1946-1947. Back Row: Marjorie Coultman, Annamae Kellar, Darwin Lambert, Genevieve Meyer, Myron Meyer, Fred Kuwica, Sheila Coultman, Ronnie Prior, Gerald Prosser, Betty Prior, Donna Coultman, Sharron Hollar. Front Row: Gwen Lambert, Clair Prior, Arnold Prosser, Lawrence Kellar, Bobby Lukens, Anne Meyer and Carol Lambert.



Marie Savage, Dorothy Ballentine, Diana Gilbert, Sheila Ballentine, Cecil Savage, David Prior, Leslie Ballentine, Gwen Lambert, Isabell Prior, Verla Prior, Ronnie Prior, Clair Prior, Arnold Prosser.

Orbindale concert drill, 1947. Back Row: Donna Coultman, Annamae Kellar, Sheila Coultman, Genevieve Meyer, Betty Prior, Marjorie Coultman. Front Row: Sharron Hollar, Ann Meyer.

Sleep Tight

Never take your cares to bed

It's one of life's worst habits.

It solves no problems and, instead,
They multiply like rabbits.



Gathering at Tom Coultman's home. Vera Chrysler, Erle Prior, Orbin Sproule, Garfield Coultman, Laura Haun, Royden Chrysler, Brown ?, Ray Moulton, Brown ?, Jean Prior holding doll now owned by Wes Parson's.

RODINO S.D. 3034 CP

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John L. Scott 1910 P.O. Robbie Inv. Ltd. 24 Chas. R.W.N. 1910 P.O. Robbie Inv. Ltd.	J.K. Hoskins 1910 P.O. L.J. Martin 24 Marvin Grady 1907 P.O. Robbie Inv. Ltd.	Marathon Realty 19 →	Stephen Lussier 1922 P.O. L. Martin 18 Geo. Lee 1926 P.O. L.H. Rausser	Richard Beckett 1929 P.O. L.C. Jones 8 winfield 1929 P.O. T.C. Jones	Thos. Daniel 1907 P.O. Mixburn Hutterite Colony 30 Clay (Edmund) MacFarlane 1908 ↓
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Information re homesteaders obtained from Provincial Archives. Other information obtained from current Municipal maps.

$$I = 1.5$$

48-10-4

RODINO DISTRICT AND SCHOOL

In May 1907 Mr. Daniel and son, Tom, also Robert MacFarlane left Liverpool by boat and came to Canada. They came west together as far as Edmonton, and then decided to go to Delnorte (later called Innisfree). From there they got a man from the livery stable to drive them out south about twenty miles. After having a drive around, they filed on section 20-48-10. Mr. Daniel on the N.E. quarter and R. MacFarlane on the S.W. Tom filed on the S.W. 28-48-10. Dick Daniel came a year later and filed on N.W. 20-48-10. The Swaynes came in 1908, making three bachelors Carl, Joe and Mike. They filed on 30-48-10. They came from Ontario, but had come from Ireland some years before. Mrs. Swayne, Kate and Onney came later.

Mr. Clay came in 1908 and homesteaded on S.E. 20-48-10. The Post Office was opened in Mr. Clay's house in 1911 and he went to Minburn every Saturday for the mail. In 1917 it was moved to Mr. MacFarlane's where it remained until it was closed when a rural route came out from Kinsella.

By 1913 there were several children of school age. John Scott, Joe Swayne and Ed Clay were the trustees and R. MacFarlane was secretary-treasurer of the school. The first pupils in 1914 were Bessie and Jenny Scott, Ena and Leslie Clay, Ivy Daniel and Harriet MacFarlane went in 1915. There were children that came from other areas as Diamond Willow was not built until 1918. Rodino School was closed in 1947 and the children were taken by bus to Kinsella.

In 1928 section 8-48-10 was settled by families who came from England. Mr. Laidler lived on N.W. 8-48-10, Mr. Beckett on N.E. 8-48-10, and Mr. Winfield on S.W. 8-48-10.

In 1948 the Swaynes sold their land to Mr. and Mrs. Victor Martin, and Louie Martin who still farm in the district.



Patsy Lever, Pamela Paget, Betty Daniel, Audrey Revill, 1945.



Tom Daniels with oxen, breaking about 1910.



*Donald Christensen
Dennis Lever
Melvin Crouse
Philip Crouse
1945.*



Donald Christensen, Dennis Lever, Pamela Paget, Patsy Lever, Jackie Lever, Audrey Revill, Genon Astley Teacher, 1945.

HISTORY OF RODINO HALL AND COMMUNITY

by Rosamund Vandervaate

When I arrived in Canada in 1929 from England, I was 11 years old. I can barely remember that there were a lot of young people in the district who were anxious to have a Young People's Club formed.

About 1930 it was decided to begin the club with Harry Ellwood as the President and Mary Laidler as Secretary-Treasurer. The newly organized club was given the name "Rodino Young People's Society". The motto to be lived by, was "United We Stand - Divided We Fall". Meetings were held regularly, and it was soon realized that a hall was necessary to carry on activities. In 1932, with William Revill as the second President, they began the construction, with many families participating - Revill, Laidler, Vandervaate, Winfield, J. Scott, Garvie, W. Johnston, Closes, Leighton and Crouses who were members and helpers. The land on which the hall and grounds were located was lent to the Club by William

Revill. All labor was volunteered and supervised by John Scott, and managed by the president.

Early in 1933 the Grand Opening was held. At the time of laying the piles, William Revill had drilled a hole in one block at the NE corner of the foundation, inserting a sealed bottle which contained all the names of the first members. There were 60 names. Twenty-one years later, after the destruction by holocaust, the bottle was retrieved by William Revill. He revealed the names to the new members at that time, most of the original members had moved or passed away.

In Rodino School, the student minister, Mr. Newberry, had been the instigator of this whole project. There was great enthusiasm in the beginning, and the club lived up to its motto throughout the years. All members had farms, but they put in untiring hours of labor and time, in making this community project a true success. Fred Vandervaate never missed a day while the hall was being built, many others missed only odd days. This was real community spirit, which always went along with the name "Rodino".

There were Saturday night ball games, and when it got dark, dancing went on till midnight. Dancing was not allowed after midnight. This was a rule made by some of the mothers, and it was always adhered to. This rule has been a great influence to the younger generation, of the ones who first organized the club.

There were picnics and sports days. In later years, there were Sunday afternoon ball games, with a booth serving hot dogs, ice-cream, pop, lemonade and other goodies. A few stampedes were tried, with just 'pick-up' country cowboys, and local horses and cattle. The young people enjoyed this amateur sport. Annual sports days included girls' and boys' softball games, men's hardball games, basketball games, football games with a dance in the evening, to finish off an exciting day. There always was a large crowd.

They had built swings and teeter-totters for the kiddies. There were various races for the young folks. Horse racing was a treat. The road allowance was used as the race-track, with the men beginning the race 1/2 mile



Rodino Hall 1985. Former Rodino School was the nucleus of the present hall with four additions.

south of the hall, making the finish-line being the hall grounds gate.

The Anglican Church members put on a play in about 1935-36, called "A Midsummers Night Dream". Mrs. Yeatman, who was an invalid, played the piano. The cast were members of the Rodino School Community. Families of the Bob Johnstons, Tom Daniels, Ahab Winfields, Hugh Rayment, L. Becketts and others took parts. Men's underwear was dyed to represent the old-fashioned tights worn in the days of Shakespeare. The rest of the winter, the men wore the dyed underwear. Mrs. Helen Rayment organized and directed the drama.

Recollections of past history:

Rodino Post Office was started in 1910 by Mr. Clay, on his homestead. Money orders, stamps and mail were handled from the farm. Some of the years, Ena Clay, (Revill) carried the mail on horseback from Minburn. In the late 20's, Bob MacFarlane had the post office in his house, until it was discontinued. A rural mail route from Kinsella was established, and carried on till this day. Mail carriers included: Del Anderson who was the first carrier, Earl McNall, Dave Tessman, Clifford Tessman, Marlene MacDonald, perhaps others for short terms.

Then, there were the war years. Veterans came to live in the Rodino district after the first Great War. The second Great War came, sons and daughters of the veterans were enlisted or conscripted. Those who were members in the War 2, are inscribed on a Memorial Plaque designed and painted by Jasper (Tom) Paget, which hung in the school many years, and which still hangs in the new Rodino Country Club Hall. This new hall contains the old school, plus several new additions, and modernizations.

Some of the veterans of the second war returned to make their homes in the district again, bringing wives and children. Only one death occurred amongst the enlisted young people from Rodino, that being Gordon Elliott, who was killed at sea. His body was brought back to Viking for burial by two comrades from the Navy, bringing with him a Memorial Plaque which hangs in the St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Viking.

The church and community membership declined during the war years, but those remaining at home, carried on as best they could. We organized card games, bazaars, social evenings, dances, church and other religious functions at fewer intervals.

There were many wedding dances held in the hall throughout the years, but only one wedding. Henry Vandervaate and I were married in 1938 by Rev. John Anderson in the Rodino Hall, followed by a wedding dance, music supplied by Horinek's Orchestra. The wedding dance was celebrated by John and Joyce Vandervaate, as well, who had recently been married at Slave Lake. Ambrose Beckett brought his bride, Hazel Thayer from Medicine Hat, while he was stationed at Suffield Army Camp, and they held a wedding dance, with the Rehill's Orchestra supplying the music, in 1944. Again, at this dance, two other newlywed couples of the district, Vance and Patricia Shippy and Fred and Helen Vandervaate celebrated their wedding.

Rodino School opened in 1914 and closed its doors in 1950, not being in operation as a schoolroom every year,

but always as a church or gathering place for election polls, bridal showers, card games, etc. After the loss of the hall by wind in 1953, the school was the only community centre for many years.

The organization of the Rodino W.A. under the direction of Rev. J. Anderson of St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Viking, will appear in a separate part of this book. It was started as a branch of the Viking W.A. but soon took on an identity of its own. Hymn books were purchased from money in the Memorial Fund, and Mr. Hugh Rayment inscribed the names of those 'gone beyond' in the front cover of the hymn books.

Ministers who serviced our area through the years were: Rev. John Anderson, Rev. Timothy Matthews, Rev. V. Cole, Rev. E. Orme, Rev. A. Heron, Rev. A. Crawley, Rev. McDermott, Rev. D. Bloom and Rev. J. Bennett.

Harry Johnston built an altar, which was dedicated in 1958, when there was a baptismal service for William Revill and Neil White. The Memorial Fund paid for the cost of the materials. Cloths and linens were made by the ladies. Benches for seats made by handy men.

I can only recall one Confirmation ever being held at Rodino, that being in 1958 with Bishop Clarke officiating. When he heard that Rodino had six teenagers and five adults to be confirmed, he insisted that the service be held at our own school, with Rev. Heron as instructor.

Mrs. Helen Rayment was the first pianist, when I began attending. There was a small choir including: Ena Revill, Helen Rayment, Bob Johnston and Hugh Rayment. Later, Mrs. Christenson played the organ, followed by Kathleen Keyes (teacher at the time), who married Stuart Daniel. After the Daniel's moved to Kelowna, Reggie Vandervaate played the organ for some of the services.

In 1929, when we English settlers came in, Miss Jean Kennedy was teaching the school. The students at that time were: Mabel, Doris, Addie, Allen and Walter Faulkner, Oscar Horton, Bill MacFarlane, Margaret and Stuart Daniel, Harry and Sheila Johnston, Fred and Joyce Rayment, Peggy and Jim Laidler, Beatrice Winfield, Kathleen Freeman, Rosie and Ambrose Beckett. In those days we really looked forward to Christmas concerts and the treats off the tree. We were all poor, some of us just getting started in a new country, but we managed to walk to school in all kinds of weather. Clothing was anything but adequate. We put gunny sacks over our heads to protect our faces from the cold wind.

We used to walk 3 miles to a 'Mission Band', held at the home of Mrs. Mills, who lived by the gas well. Pete and Ivy Mollier lived in the Grandpa and Grandma Daniel house, Clara Laidler and children lived by the oil well. Later on, the Lever family lived by the oil well.

Community 'work bees' were often held, to help a farmer who was ill, bereaved or burned out. Everyone got into the swing of things those times.

Our hall blew away in 1953 in the tornado. After that, we tried to hold a few dances on the floor that remained, but that wasn't too successful. Few young folks were left in the district, so no one was interested in rebuilding a hall at that time. We did still hold the annual sports day,

and carried on with Sunday ball games for a few years. The president passed away and we moved to Barrhead.

The Presidents, as I recall them, were:

Harry Ellwood	1930-1932
William Revill	1932-1948
Harry Johnston	1948-1950
Henry Vandervaate	1950-1958
Frank Nash	1958-1959
Ambrose Beckett	1959-1961

When the club disbanded.

Henry Vandervaate had been the floor manager at the dances for most of its duration. He also was the catcher on the hardball team. He was ready to help with any work to be done.

We were all proud of our hall through the many years of its operation. Everyone did a lot of work to keep it going. We had to haul water in cream cans when we scrubbed floors, and for dances and sports.

Thank you, Rodino Community, for giving me the pleasure of writing of these 30 years in the lifetime of the hall. I hope my calculations are mostly correct.

Echo-Rodino

Mrs. A. Beckett 1969

To the friends of the late James Kennedy, we extend our sympathies, especially to Mrs. P. Holt who had the pleasure of his assistance at her amateur hour in November. This occasion was the last in which Mr. Kennedy played his banjo with the old-time orchestra he loved so much.

Earl and Diane McBeath of Camrose have been visiting with Mr. and Mrs. C. Hollar.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Winfield of Wildwood called on the Debs Faulkner's and Alfred Winfield recently.

Gladys and Lee Davis of Niton were down to visit Gladys's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Faulkner recently, as well as Wm. McFarland from Lloydminster.

Mr. and Mrs. Beckett drove into Viking to help celebrate the second birthday of their little grand-daughter, Karen Bauer on January 15. Then on Friday, January 17, they drove up to Mannville to see their grand-daughter, Brenda Beckett, who celebrated her first birthday.

Slowing down is not all that bad. "Moss on your moccasins" is better than "Bees in your bonnet".

Time does not pass away. It is we who pass away the time.



Tornado, 1953 - Beckett home.

A portion of the destruction that the tornado that struck the Rodino district July 14th is pictured above. Many other scenes such as these could be published but the above

are typical of several in the district including barns, granaries and other buildings. Unless you have visited and seen the desolation and destruction which followed in the

path of the cyclone and hail storm it is quite unbelievable. Large trees were uprooted and twisted and torn like match sticks, and parts of furniture and machinery were blown away and never recovered.

We understand that arrangements are being made to rebuild some of the residences and barns that took the brunt of the storm.



Rodino Hall

RODINO ANGLICAN CHURCH W.A.

written by Rosamund Vandervaaite

The Rodino W.A. was first organized in 1938 with five members. Helen Rayment was the first President, Elvina Daniel Vice-President, Ivy Mollier Secretary, Rose Vandervaaite Treasurer and Mary Beckett was the Dorcas Secretary.

We did sewing for Bazaars, sending to the Eaton's and Simpson's Catalogues for remnants. We held Teas, Whist drives and plays. Our first play in 1938 was entitled "Black Cats", which turned out to be quite hilarious. Quite a few members of the community took parts, including Tom Hughes, who was teaching Rodino School at that time. Mrs. Rayment was our director. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rayment did a lovely job of the scenery for the play. It was a huge success.

Times were hard back there in the 30's, but we did very well. As time went on, we drew more members. We held our meetings in the homes, taking turns. We all took our children (under school age). I can remember one particular meeting, there were five members and thirteen children, and it happened to be in the home of Ena Revill that time. The kiddies always liked to go to Ena's, as she was so kind to them all.

I also remember one time. Henry my husband, was using the horses in the field, so I walked and pulled the children in the little toy wagon. It was 7 miles up to the meeting at Mrs. Powell's, but I never missed a meeting in all the years. On the way home it poured rain. The wagon wheels clogged up with mud so bad, and my shoes were so heavy with mud, that I couldn't walk in them. So I stripped off bare-foot, put my shoes in the wagon and hid them all in the bush. Then I put Reggie on my back, and Connie, my baby, in my arms. I walked all the rest of the way much easier.

We had hardships, along with good times. It was the same for all. Later on, when most of us had cars, we would have our Teas in Golka's Garage in Viking.

Mrs. Rayment went to live in Edmonton. Mrs. Mary Beckett was our new President, until 1946, when she passed away with cancer. Mrs. Ena Revill was the next President, for twelve consecutive years. We gave her a Life Membership.

We also had Harvest Suppers in the Community Hall in Viking, after we got cars for transportation. We hauled our hot water in cream cans from the Co-op Creamery, for cooking and washing dishes. This was an Annual Fowl Supper, which was held each year for a long time.

People began to move away, as years passed. There weren't enough ladies left to keep the Rodino W.A. going. It disbanded in the early 60's, but the remaining members kept on as 'Lone Members', receiving materials and literature from the Edmonton Office. Old members joined W.A.'s in their new locations.

With my family, I moved to Barrhead, where I was President of the Junior W.A. and Secretary for the Senior W.A. for many years. I received my Life Membership in 1965 in Barrhead, and was President of the Pembina Deanery for two years. I often look back, and am very thankful for those early years when we worked

so hard with so little convenience, and poor roads. It was all worthwhile.

Some of our members along the way, included:

Helen Rayment
Rose Vandervaaite
Hazel Beckett
Effie Nash
Melda Hollar
Mrs. Mundhenk
Elsie Matters
Margaret Phillips
Elvina Daniel
Mary Beckett
Gwen Daniel
Nerine Hunter
Clara Laidler
Mrs. Powell
Margaret Winfield
Ivy Mollier
Kay Daniel
Daisy Johnston
Edna Campbell
Doris Thomas
Bessie Simmerson
Florence Hollar

Miss Lizzie Vandervaaite never joined as a member, but she helped, and she made and donated sewing. She gave many quilts to be raffled.



Back Row: Yvonne Greenwood, Lois Crouse, Doreen Prosser, Hilma Garvie, Effie Nash, Mrs. Newby, Melda Hollar, Gladys Holt, (?), Ruby Hollar, Peggy Hollar, Mrs. Ollie Hollar. Middle Row: Josie Holt, Mrs. Zakow, Patsy Shippy, Nerine Hunter, Mrs. Campbell, Viola Greenwood. Front Row: Bessy Simerson, Mildred Greenwood, Mrs. Hazel Beckett, Mrs. Edna Revill, Florence Hollar all attending a Hobo tea at Mrs. Anderson's.

*When he requests my daughter's hand
In marriage, I won't block it.
I only hope he takes the hand
That's always in my pocket.*

THE HOBOS

by Mrs. A. Beckett, 1967 Irma Times

*We're just a group of women,
Who've simply gone berserk.
We call on all our neighbors,
When we ought to be at work.*

*We catch them in the morning,
And we call in the afternoon.
We even go so far as to
Go by light of moon.*

*We're clad in pretty dresses,
Or jeans and sweaters too.
We've even gone in chore clothes,
And pajamas pink and blue.*

*Our men folk persevere with us,
Although they stand and stare,
They never saw their wives before,
In long white underwear.*

*The hostess sighs, but has to laugh,
When we go traipsing in,
We're armed with comb and paper,
Our orchestra begins.*

*We sing and dance and tell some jokes,
We hear the latest news.
We argue, and we sure discuss,
Each other's point of view.*

*They serve us sandwiches or cake,
A cookie or a bun.
We've even had some pancakes,
To add to all the fun.*

*And then we pass a little dish
In which we place our dime
The money goes to Rodino Club,
And we've had quite a time.*



Glen Hollar Home

Scenes of Desolation



Mrs. D. Johnston Home

Echo-Rodino

Mrs. A. Beckett/1968

Mrs. Henry Beckett and Rhonda, Mrs. Erroyl Beckett and Brenda all of Mannville, were Sunday visitors of the Ambrose Beckett's.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Hollar and Shane, Mrs. N. Hollar and Lorraine were in Vermilion on Monday.

Mrs. Lyn Hunter has gone to Creston, B.C. to the bedside of her father. Claude Shippy. is very ill in hospital at this time.

The Crouse's and N. Hollar's made a trip to Wainwright one afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Holt, Joe and Mary motored to the city Thursday and came back the following day.

Mr. and Mrs. G. McBeath were weekend visitors of Mr. and Mrs. C. Hollar.

Joe Suru of Donalds called on Claude Hollar Friday evening.

A quitter never wins and a winner never quits.

Trouble is like a dead fish - it always comes to the surface.

A dollar doesn't go far these days but what it lacks in distance it makes up in speed.

ROSEBERRY DISTRICT

Most of the homesteaders started coming into the Roseberry District around 1900 though Max Ulick came in 1904. Some of the early settlers were Jack Smith, who homesteaded what is known as the William Walker place. Jack Agar came from Watrous, Saskatchewan and filed on the quarter where the Paul Nemyo family live. The school quarter was homesteaded by Neil McMillan, uncle of the late Neil McMillan.

Fred and Doris Younker and their son and wife, Harvey and Valerie, live where Billy Oldfield homesteaded on the west half of 16-46-8. There are several reports of a race track made there but nobody seems clear if it was Mr. Oldfield who constructed it or the man who bought the place from him. Jim Creamer homesteaded the N.W. 10-46-8.

The Savard place was homesteaded by a man who was already known as Old Man Young. He was noted for being quite fond of youngsters and that feeling must have been mutual as he frequently had young visitors.

Jim Linen homesteaded N.W. 4-46-8 where Joe Burton's lived until they moved to Irma and their son Wayne and his wife farm the home place. The Jameson place S.E. 3-46-8 (Frank Crabb home) was homesteaded by George Green. J.G. Clarke was the one who fenced it with page wire he brought from Ontario. Some still remains in use. Norm McDougal homesteaded the S.W. 22-46-8 where the Oldham home now stands.

Other homesteaders on that section were Thurston (seemingly no relation to the present Thurston), Fred Challis and Isaac Hersey. Two little Hersey children were buried on their quarter. Chris Creamer homesteaded the quarter immediately west of the school quarter. Clark Manor, which was quite a noteworthy place in its time, was built by J.G. Clark on the S.E. 1-46-8 on the homestead he took in 1906. For a number of years the post office was there. The Bacons farmed there for many years and the land is now farmed by Jack Taylor.

Other homesteaders who nobody seems to be able to connect with land are: Jake Santee and Leemaster. No doubt there were others which have not been remembered.

Later other young families came west and bought land. Ben Oldham came in 1916, Newt Horning in 1918 and Frank Younker came from Prince Edward Island in 1920, followed by brother George in 1921 and Charlie joined them in 1924. Shorty Squires had originally homesteaded over in the Auburndale district, but moved into the Roseberry district in 1925. Norman Willerton came out from England in 1925 and came into the Roseberry district in the early thirties. Bill Lawson came from England in 1925 and Paul Nemyo from Czechoslovakia in 1928.

Oldtimers seem to agree that the winter of 1906-07 was extremely bad. J.G. Clark and William Steele came out by settler train from Ottawa and were six weeks on the way. Settlers worked very hard but there was also time for fun. There was no talk of tension or nerves in those days. The community people made their own entertainment.

A Literary Society was formed in 1908-09 and Mrs.



The play "Deacon Dubs" put on at Roseberry, directed by Mrs. Albert Taylor. Players are - Back Row: Harold Morse, Daisy Kennedy (teacher), Seth Oldham, Howard Oldham as a girl, Jake Darling. Front Row: Margaret Walker, George Taylor, Olive Rush, Charlie Younker, and Jean Walker.

Watkinson of the Alma Mater district had a good part in its progress. Plays were put on as well as other entertainments. The Roseberry Tattler, a hand-written paper of news and items of interest, was produced and read by Mrs. Wattie at many of these gatherings.

Harry Santee travelled around the country taking pictures for the settlers as no doubt cameras were scarce.

The Milton and Hugh Adams families farmed just east of the Roseberry district. Mrs. Adams was a nurse in the World War I and later she was a great blessing among homesteaders when new babies arrived and people were sick.

As the years progressed a Ladies' Aid was formed in 1930. The Alma Mater ladies joined with Roseberry ladies to form a good-sized group. This was at the time Rev. Geeson was minister.

Hockey games were held down at Oldham's slough and many heated contests were held there - no covered rink, no artificial ice, but an abundance of enthusiasm. Some of the players then were: Fred and Milton Younker, Murray and Bill Walker, Jack and Don Savard, Bill Lawson, Clarke Steele, Archie Cook and Howard Oldham. William Walker coached the boys.

In 1930 a Glee Club was formed largely due to Helen Deeton. She generated quite a bit of interest in singing among the young people who were past school age. They generally produced a couple of numbers to add to the Christmas concerts. They also produced four plays "Deacon Dubs" which was directed by Mrs. A.A. Taylor, "Arizona Cowboy" and "Aunt Samantha Rules the Roost", both of which were directed by Wm. Walker Sr. Mrs. Charlie Savard directed a play. In one of the plays they were apparently short of girls, so Howard Oldham was called upon to take the part of a girl.

Some of the families who lived in the district were Herb and Mabel Morse, who lived on the Creamer place N.W. 10-46-8, Mr. and Mrs. Walker on S.E. 10-46-8, Archie and Alice Cook on N.E. 9-46-8, Paul and Sophie Nemyo on S.W. 10-46-8, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rome on N.W. 14-46-8, Gerald and Gene Allen settled on S.W. 23-46-8

and planted a maple tree which is still living. The Lawson families live on N.W. 23-46-8. Mr. and Mrs. LeCroix lived on S.W. 14-46-8 while Charlie Savard occupied S.E. 14-46-8 which is owned by Willerton Farms today. The homesite is an acreage where Mr. and Mrs. J. Spears live. Atkinsons were on N.W. 18-46-7 while the Younkens lived on section 21-46-8 where Milt farms today. The Oldhams have all of section twenty-two and H.G. Jamesons were on section 2-46-8.

The communities have changed. Today very little entertainment takes place within the district. Everyone heads for larger centres to be entertained - no one thinks twice about driving to Edmonton to see a hockey game, ball game or a motion picture. The close-knit community spirit has disappeared.



Roseberry hockey team.



Stove from the Roseberry School, garbage burner at A. Dootson, mower - Ken Hill, England.



The Roseberry School in 1914. Teacher is Mrs. Norman King (Miss Smith). Some of the pupils were the Steele boys, Linnens, Renwicks, Clara Wakefield. Trev Sellers took this picture with his home-made camera.

ROSEBERRY SCHOOL NO. 1743

Roseberry School No. 1743 was built on the N.E. 10-46-8 by Christopher Creamer in 1908. Nobody seems to know why it was called Roseberry. Members of the board suggested different names and that is the name that was chosen. Miss Ida Milburn was the first teacher. She boarded with the W.B. Steele family. The first students were Marjorie, Bessie, Ina, Keith and Clarke Steele; Isaac, Lena and Bessie Hersey; Allan and Leslie Lennon; Nora, May and Oren Santee. Trustees W.B. Steele, J. Lennen and Isaac Hersey were members of the first school board.

Mrs. Moore, Miss Margaret Clark, Miss Prudence Smith and Miss Armstrong were the early teachers. Because of a shortage of pupils the school had to close from 1914-18. When it reopened Miss Wortman was the teacher and the pupils were York, Olive and Oliver Rush; Clara, Sam and Edith Ulick and Howard Oldham. The school board was made up of J.G. Clark, Pete Harvey and Ben Oldham. For a couple of years after the school reopened holidays were taken in January and February instead of the midsummer. Other teachers at Roseberry were Miss Armstrong, Miss Margaret Clark who taught before the school was closed and taught again after it reopened, a period of fourteen years. Miss D. Kennedy, Miss Hamilton, Miss A. MacDonald, Miss H. Ballentine, Miss A. Carmichael, Miss O. Fischer, Miss J. Gray, Miss M. Hess, Miss B. Bruhaug, Mr. L. McClay, Mr. H. Lewin, Mrs. Doris Fenton, Miss Law, Miss Beer, Miss N. Funk and Miss Steffenson were later teachers at Roseberry.

Mr. A.A. Taylor, Mr. W. Walker, Mrs. B. Oldham, Mr. A. Atkinson and Mr. C. Younker served as trustees as well as Bill Lawson and Gerald Allen for the school in later years. Roseberry closed in 1948 and the students were bussed to Irma. Church services were held in the school for many years; Rev. Rutledge being the first minister in 1909. During the time that the school was closed people went to the J.H. Elliott home where services were held. The youngsters were generally given a



Roseberry School about 1914, Steele boys, Renwicks, and Clara Wakefield out front.

cookie before leaving for home.

A few years after the school closed for good, ten interested men formed a community association and purchased the building as a hall. Several bridal showers were held there as well as twenty-fifth anniversaries and the wedding reception of Carolyn Morse and Richard Tullson was held in the hall. For a time it served as a centre for the community but in recent years it sits unused. Joe Oracheski bought the building.

Taken from the Irma Times - February 15th, 1918.

Reopening of the Roseberry School. The annual meeting of the ratepayers of the Roseberry School



Mrs. George Taylor (Helen Ballentine) on the horse she rode while teaching at Roseberry and Battleheights schools. Picture taken at the Taylor farm, Mrs. Albert Taylor at the door of the house.

District No. 1743 was held on Thursday, February 7th, 1918 and was well attended. This is a pioneer school of the Irma district, being one of the first schools to be built in the then Local Improvement District, later becoming the Battle River Municipality.

It was built in 1908 and was successfully run until the end of 1914 when some of the families moved out and the children of others passed the school age. It was closed for the want of scholars. The "back to the land" movement is however fast filling up the vacant quarter sections in the district and this spring the trustees find they have plenty of children of school age to open the school again, which they propose to do on the 2nd of April. In the meantime the trustees intend to renovate the schoolhouse and secure a competent teacher.

Mr. W.B. Steele, whose term of office expired, declined to accept nomination as trustee and Mr. B. Oldham was elected in his place. Mr. G.A. Green was elected chairman and F.W. Watkinson, secretary-treasurer.

Roseberry school burnt to the ground in the fall of 1984 by a lightning strike.



Roseberry School transportation, 1941-42.



Roseberry School students hard at work, 1940-41.

Two people can live as cheaply as one what?



Roseberry School, abandoned.



Jack and Allan Taylor on their pony leaving for Roseberry School. A blanket was used for a saddle.



War efforts (collecting rubber) at Roseberry School, 1940-41.

The Original Board of Directors of the Roseberry R.E.A. Norman Willerton, President, Layton Barss, Jack Ballentine, Howard Oldham, Earling Larson, Les Tindall, Neil McMillan, Charlie Wilbraham did the secretarial work the first few years but he was not a director.

If a statement had been made to the residents of the Roseberry District which is in the North West area of the Municipal District of Wainwright and the South East area of the Municipal District of Minburn, that within 17 months, 107 farm homes would be using electricity fed by the transmission lines of Calgary Power Ltd. it would have been written off as an idiocy.

Construction was well under way by June 1953. It was on the 19th of August 1953 that the lines of this PROGRESSIVE and most CO-OPERATIVE Association were energized. This early completion could not have been possible without the fullest co-operation of Farm Electric Services, its employees, the farmers themselves and the organization work of the President and Directors who worked so closely with him. This co-operation was ever present, the directors organized work parties to tamp poles, take down rural telephone lines and fences and replace them behind the crews. It was necessary to commandeer tractors to haul reel trucks through rain sodden fields, and on one occasion "Old Dobbin" was called back into service to pull a string of wire through a swamp area. The farmers wives did a wonderful job arranging meals at all hours for the crews and other workmen, and much credit is due to these wonderful ladies.

What does all this mean to the consumer of rural electrification? One drives through this area these fall evenings and sees farm homes ablaze with electric lights, the yard lights on, repair and servicing of farm and harvest equipment is being done under the lights of Calgary Power instead of the barn lantern or flashlight. We call in at the old familiar homes and see them transformed with electric stove, refrigerator complete with ice cubes to tinkle in the glasses of good fellowship, radio and television very soon is hoped. Fire hazards have been reduced to a minimum, but the best of all a happy family in a well lighted home.

Corrective
line

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ROSS DISTRICT

In the spring of 1906 the first settlers arrived to what is known as the Ross District. These pioneers came in by way of Mannville and for years that was their nearest town where they got their mail and supplies. There were no roads, no fences, fewer houses, but miles of prairie trails.

Mr. John Watson, his father and mother, Mr. Joe Lines and son Ikey, filed on the first homesteads in the new community - all on Section 22-46-9. A large slough in the northeast corner became known as Watson's Lake. Ten days later the R.A. Larson family homesteaded N.W. 16-46-9.

About 1908 the Jim Kennedy family homesteaded on Section 20-46-9. The same year Mr. John Runstad, a relative of Larsons, and Mr. Morgan, also took the remainder of Section 20-46-9. In 1907 Mr. Gale and family moved onto S.E. 28-46-9. This place was taken over by Fred Challis, then Rick Larson and now George Fischer lives there.

During 1908 immigration was a high point and several families came looking for homesteads. Mr. William Walker came at this time with a family of five children. Mrs. Walker acted as midwife and was one of the first teachers. The Walkers homesteaded S.E. 34-46-9, August Weinrich and William Herman settled the west half and Baptiste Wirth took the N.E. 34-46-9. Also in 1908 Mr. Nash and son Fenton, settled S.E. 18-46-9 and S.W. 18-46-9. The Dave Ambler family moved onto S.E. 32-46-9. This land changed hands many times before becoming part of the Holt Colony.

About this time Pete Sellstedt, Charlie Anderson and Edgar Florin took the three remaining quarters of section sixteen. William Stewart took up land north of Gales and lived there until he went to war in 1914. On his return he bought the Florin place. It is now owned by Bob Meakins, Ben Ambler lived on C.P.R. land on section thirty-three.

In 1909 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway reached the new village of Irma and then Irma became the trading center. Tom Yarr homesteaded-section ten about 1908 and farmed until his death. The land is owned by Thurstons. Joe Wallace and his wife lived west of Gales in 1911. Ross School was built on the southwest corner of

their land.

Later settlers of the district include: Wallace Myer family, Charlie Olsen homesteaded S.W. 30-46-9 in 1914, and in 1919 the John Archibald family moved in. During the early twenties Howard Peterson bought the east half of section seventeen. Charlie Clarke bought the west half of 21-46-9 now owned by Gordon Fischer. After Jimmy Kennedy married he lived on his grandfather's homestead before moving to Sunny Brae district. Steve Krompok came in 1928 to the N.W. 28-46-9. He died while fighting a fire on his place in the sixties.

The Stockton family came in the thirties, as did Jack McFadden. A Klassen family spent some years here before moving to Calgary. After World War II Ralph and Sam Congdon farmed section twenty-nine. Armitages, Jerry Mark and Brent Fischer now farm the land. The Len Adamson family lived on N.W. 19-46-9 after the war. John Dubaz moved onto Peterson place in 1945.

1922 ROSS LOCALS

One of the most enjoyable social events of the season in Ross district was the farewell party given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Peterson in honor of Mr. John Gulbraa and family.

The community will be sorry to see them go and wish them success and happiness in their new home. A notable feature of the evening was an excellent impromptu program of music and recitations. The house was crowded with friends and neighbors.

The C. G. I. T. Concert given at Ross Schoolhouse on April 7th was quite a success and the program was enjoyed by all.

Quite a number of friends and neighbors gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Kennedy last Friday evening to welcome them home from their winter sojourn in Edmonton.

Harry Sellstedt has returned to his farm for spring work.

We are sorry to say David cut his finger. Too bad.

The Easter service at Ross will be held April 23rd beginning at 1 o'clock. Special music is being arranged.

This community is sorry to hear of the tragic death of Byron the eldest son of Mrs. Ida Printup of "Zigzag Ranch", which occurred last week, in the North..

Mrs. Printup and her only remaining son, Ivan, went to Edmonton Monday morning to attend the inquest and burial.



Road Building crew in the Ross District.



The Meyers men cutting grain.



During the thirties a large number of empty houses were mysteriously burned. It was thought the aim was to keep more land open for range. Among the houses burned in the Ross district were Rorricks, Harry Clarks, Jim Ribarits and Bert Armitage.

For the most part farms are much larger than in the early days. Go-ahead farmers have bought out smaller ones. Several gas wells are producing in the district. Natural gas, telephone and electricity have made for very modern homes.



Mr. Magrath, Sam Cameron, Mrs. John Watson, Christina Cameron, Mrs. Cameron, Mary Hubman and Mr. John Watson.



Celebrating Lillian McFadden's birthday. Left to Right: Ethel McFarland, Bessie Olsen, Bessie Larson, Eileen Miles, Mrs. Herder, Lillian McFadden, Mrs. Miles, Sr., Mrs. Clisdell and a relative from States.

ROSS SCHOOL

Ross School Number 2042 was built on the southwest corner of the Joe Wallace land by William Walker and William Harper. Mr. Charlie Anderson built the foundation of stone which had been hauled to the site by Mr. Jim Kennedy Sr. and Jimmy Kennedy with their oxen.

The first trustees were Joe Wallace, Dave Ambler and Tom Yarr. The first teacher was Mrs. Joe Wallace. Among the first pupils were: Alf, Rick and Augusta Larson, Elvin Ambler, Jimmy Kennedy and Lottie Gale. The next year the school was closed because of lack of pupils. This forced the Larson family and Jimmy Kennedy to attend school in Irma, in the basement of the Methodist Church. Ross reopened the following year.

Some of the teachers of Ross included: Miss Brickman, Miss Brown, Mr. Patten, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Walker, Miss Parsons, Mr. Hardy, Miss Carey and Miss Hasse. Some later ones included: Miss Magrath, Miss Miles, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Barber, Miss Nichols, Miss Watson, Miss Flewelling, Mr. Aide, Mr. Kroetch, Miss Miller, Mr. Soneff, Mr. Touchette, Miss Owen, Mr. Lewin, Mr. Smart and Mr. Alwood.

In the early fifties the school was closed and the pupils bussed to Irma. The Ross School was purchased by the North Irma Community Association, moved to the S.W. 14-46-9 and joined with Alma Mater to form the North Irma Community Hall.

While the school was in the district, it served as a recreation centre. Dances were frequently held, a few plays were produced and sometimes there were church services. The highlights of the school year were the Christmas concert and the end of school picnic.



Ross School, 1919.



Vera Prosser, Marney Larson, Jennene Archibald, Avilvia Archibald, Lorna Archibald, Jean Larson, Vivian Stockton, Josephine Saville, Cora Larson, Scott Larson, Claude Larson, Bill Dubasz, Colleen Archibald, Irene Dubasz, Lamona Archibald, Bruce Larson, Charlie Saville, Sonny Archibald, Irene Archibald, Shirley Archibald.



Bobby Burr on his horse, Jack, ready to ride to school in April, 1929.

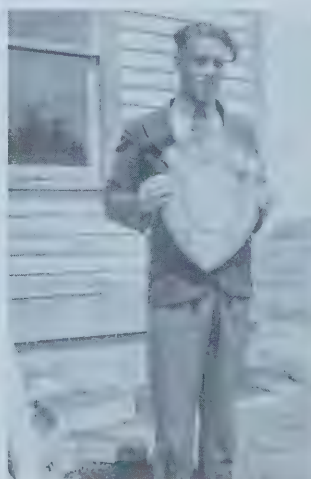
Edith Watson, 1938 - teacher at Ross school.



1939. Ralph Larson, John Klassen, Irene Burr, Adeline Larson, Illez Dubasz, Orville Burr, Jack Dubasz, Vivian Stockton, Betty Larson, Mae Cummings, Jennene, Lorna and Avilvia Archibald and Marney Larson.



1940. Illez Dubasz, Jack Dubasz, Orville Burr, Irene Burr, Betty Larson. Middle Row: Vivian Stockton, Avilvia Archibald, Bill Dubasz, Jean Larson, Vivian Archibald, Cora Larson, Claude Larson, Lorna and Jennene Archibald, Marney Larson and Vera Prosser.



Louis Aide, 1940 - teacher at Ross school.



1927: Harriet Nash, Irene Archibald, Chester Stover, Bertil Selstedt, Mary Kennedy (Jas. Kennedy Sr.) Leila Nash, Clayton Peterson, Walter Bond, Bertram Nicoll, Raymond Stimson, Ellen Anderson, Olive Larson, Gladys Larson, Hazel Nicoll, Greta Larson, Adeline Larson, William Nash, Allen Anderson.



A neighborhood picnic in the north country.



Christmas Roses Drill. Josephine Saville, Vera Prosser, Avilvia Archibald, Marney Larson, Jennene Archibald, Vivian Stockton, Jean Larson, Lorna Archibald.

The only fellow whose troubles are all behind him is a school bus driver.

1921 Ross Locals.

A meeting of the Ross C. G. I. T. was held on Tuesday, November 8th at the home of Mrs. H. Lyster, when some particular business was discussed, including plans for the coming winter. An election of officers: Mrs. H. Lyster, Leader. Myrtle Ambler, President. Maude Walker, Vice-Prs. Muriel Ambler, Chairman. Elizabeth Walker, Secretary. Anna Walker, Treasurer. Singing of Class hymns, after which lunch was served by Mrs. Lyster, Misses Walker and Ambler. Meeting adjourned to meet next week.

Mrs. John Archibald who has been on the sick list is recovering nicely.

Mr. I. Lyons from Missouri, who homesteaded in these parts thirteen years ago, has been renewing acquaintances for a few days.

Some of the young folks of the Ross district met at the home of Mrs. H. Lyster and enjoyed a very pleasant Halloween evening.

Mr. and Mrs. R. McPherson's celebrated the birthday anniversary of their little daughter Katherine, Sunday, November 6th, by giving a dinner to a number of near neighbors.

Born on Friday, November 4th, to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Olson, a daughter.

The senior C. G. I. T. girls are resuming their club meetings after a short vacation.

Mrs. V. C. Peterson who has been in ill health for some time and went to the General Hospital for an operation five weeks ago has returned home much improved in health.



Josie Saville, Vivian Stockton, Jean Larson, Jennene Archibald, Avilvia Archibald, teacher - Miss M. Miller, Vera Prosser, Orville Olsen, Bill Dubasz, Lorna Archibald, Irene Dubasz, Cora Larson, Vivian Archibald.

Jacobine Berreth Mar. 1911 32 Po W.B. Pedel		Berreth May 1908 32 W.B. Pedel	
▲Hudson Berreth Nov. 1911 Po N.J. Fluevog	▲Theodore Berreth July 1915 Po W.B. Pedel	Peter J. Harvey (Crazing Permit) March 1924 29 Crown Land School Land	
▲Gordon Berreth July 1915 Po A.W. Pedel	▲Mabel (White) Bell Aug. 1914 From J.W. White (Bell) Po R.W. Bell	▲Bert Stimson June 1910 Po R.W. Bell R.W. Bell	P.J. Harvey Po H.W. Cluff July 1906 Po R.W. Bell
▲Wm. Ornitt Oct. 1916 Po T.R. Copeland	▲Jas. Bell June 1916 Po W.I. Bell	▲S.A.V. R.K. Cousins Jan. 1913 Po W.I. Bell	▲R.K. Cousins Jan. 1913 S.A.V. Marathon Realty Co. Ltd.
▲E.R. Palmer Mar. 1911 Po D.D. Creasy	▲John B. Turner May 1915 Po W.I. Bell	▲S.A.V. Robt. Cousins Nov. 1912 Po W.I. Bell	▲Wm. Tomlinson Apr. 1908 Po W.I. Bell C.P.R.
▲E.R. Palmer S.A.V. May 1911 Po D.D. Creasy	▲E.R. Palmer May 2, 1911 S.A.V. Po D.D. Creasy	▲Cornelius Foreman Sept. 9, 1909 S.A.V. Po D.F. Hinkey	▲Jas. G. Turgeon June 1909 S.A.V. Po A.F. Bronson Oct. 14, 1914
▲Newton Hutchins May 1915 Po A. Creasy	▲H.P. Whittles May 1911 Po A. Creasy	▲John Robb Oct. 1914 Po D.F. Hinkey	▲Roy Bronson July 1910 Po J.I. Sm. Voros Po Jas. Bronson Aug. 12, 1909 Po Herbert Mildon June 12, 1906 Po J.I. Sm. Voros Po J.I. Sm. Voros
▲Wm. John Daugherty Apr. 1916 Po R. Hinkey	▲Fred Porter Nov. 1908 Po G.W. Szoke	Po H.B. Co. Po V. King	▲Ray Bronson July 1910 Po John W. Bronson July 1910 Po J.I. Sm. Voros Silver Lane Po Edward Crowder May 1913 Po M.O. King
▲Philip P. Daugherty Apr. 1916 Po A.W. Patterson	▲E.P. Quintenton Nov. 1908 Po D.F. Hinkey	Po H.B. Co. Po John Colbourn Po W.I. Szoke Po G.W. Szoke H. B.	▲John W. Bronson July 1910 Po J.I. Sm. Voros Po Edward Crowder May 1913 Po M.O. King
▲Norman Hudson Dec. 1916 Po V. King	▲Bendik Adjous Sept. 1911 Po A. Gunn Nov. 1906 Po M.I. King	▲Theodore Richmond Sept. 1911 Po G.W. Szoke Po Joseph Boughton Dec. 1910 Po G.W. Szoke	▲John Colbourn Aug. 1911 Po W.I. Szoke Po R. Dawson Apr. 1912 Po W.I. Szoke
▲Wm. R. Kendron Aug. 1916 Po M.I. King	▲A. Gunn Nov. 1906 Po M.I. King	▲Daniel S. West Aug. 1909 Po R.W. Thurston	▲Clarence Allen June 1910 Po R.W. Thurston Po Jas. m. Davidson Aug. 1909 Po Robt. McTavish July 1911 Po R.W. Thurston Po Martin O'Connor July 1922 Po J. A. Clements

Silver Lane S.D.
2364

S.A.V. = South
 Schoolkey African Veteran.
 (Boer War)
 Home Steader
 Original Owner
 of non-homestead land
 Present Owner.

HISTORY OF THE SILVER LANE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT

At a meeting held at the home of James Bronson on February 11, 1911, it was decided to construct a school on the southwest corner of the N.W. 9-44-9. The first officers of the school board were G.R. Bronson as chairman, and E.G. Stokes as Secretary-Treasurer. The school was built in 1912 at a cost of \$800.00 and was ready for use in July of that year. All the pupils comprising the first class had the surname "Bronson" and for that reason plus the school was built on Bronson land, the original name was Bronson School. In 1921 the name was changed by popular vote to Silver Lane.

The first teacher was Mr. R.R. Miller who taught for two months. He was succeeded by Miss E. Latimer who also served a short time. Other teachers for the period 1912-1920 included Mrs. E.A. Quittenton, Mr. C.M. Scarborough, Mr. J. Fern Trussler, Miss McAllister, Mr. Russell McIlbraith and Mrs. Green.

Under the guidance of Mr. J.B. Horn who taught in 1921-1922 a Literary Society was formed. Parents and pupils gave the Society their whole-hearted support and many enjoyable plays were presented for the entertainment of the community.

Other teachers for the period 1923-1944 included: Mrs. Pitblado, Mrs. McPherson, Mr. Charles E. Purdy, Mrs. F. McDonnell, Mrs. M. Christensen, Mr. P.M. Hunter, Mr. O.E. McNeill, Mr. A.I. McLean, Mrs. A. Hughes, Miss Lula P. Faulds, Miss L.M. Sanders, Miss Myrtle Johnson, Miss E. Ingram, Miss Myrtle Burpee, Miss Marian Carrington and the last teacher was Miss Marguerite Miller. The school closed in 1944 and the pupils were transferred to Fullview school. In the "Mid Forties" there was a possibility that the school would be re-opened, but after careful consideration it was decided that the Silver Lane pupils should be transported to Irma by bus. This bus route under the direction of Mr. Symington, was the first in the Irma District.

Other members of the School Board included James, Ray, and Roy Bronson, James Bell, Charles Riley, Mrs. Quittenton and Mr. Richmond. Mr. Richmond is to be remembered for his keen interest in all school activities and assistance he rendered on many occasions by

transporting pupils to school fairs and other events.

For years the teachers boarded with Mr. and Mrs. James Bronson and later with the Roy Bronsons. After the closing of Silver Lane School the building was sold to George King. He moved it half a mile south and made it into a very comfortable home. Merle and Ida King and family live there now.

June 23, 1922
SILVER LANE

Mrs. J. A. Bell went to Lougheed last week for a week's visit with friends.

Bill Tomlinson stopped over here a few days last week en route from Saskatchewan to Edmonton.

Glen Hazen came over from Daysland Saturday for a few days stay.

George Louard of Edmonton, spent the week-end here at the T. P. Richmond home.

Grasshoppers are still a menace east of here. Another ton of poison bait was distributed Sunday morning.

J. S. Walters has moved his house to the southeast corner of his farm. A large bunch of his neighbors assisted him in a moving bee Thursday and Friday. The dwelling is now in a much better location as well as being three-quarters of a mile nearer school. Mr. Walters lives on what was formerly the Palmer farm.

Ray Bronson and family autoed to Roseland Saturday returning Sunday evening. They were called there on account of illness of Mrs. Bronson's father, Ernest Krenalke, who was injured by a fall Thursday. Ray reports that Mr. Krenalke is now on the road to recovery.

Mrs. Maudie Jackson drove over from Galahad Monday. She returned here the same afternoon accompanied by Mrs. J. B. Horn and two children, who will spend a week or two visiting friends in that place.



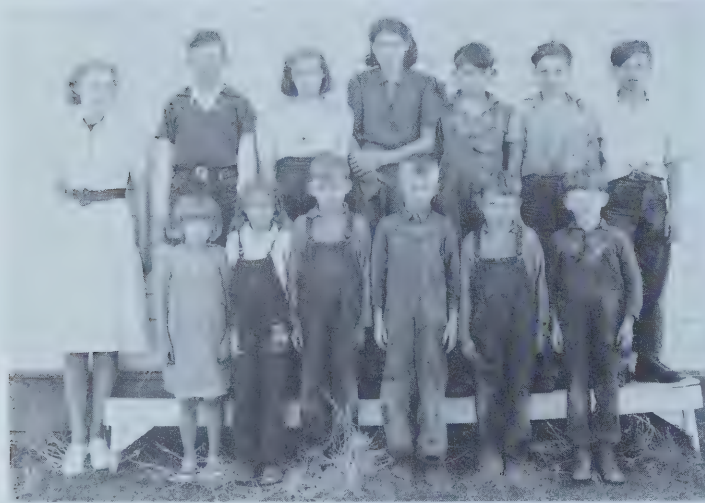
Silver Lane school.



Gordon Harvey, Jimmie Bell, Irving and Doug Bell, Peter Harvey.



Silver Lane school students, June, 1939 (Miss Ethel Ingram - teacher.



Silver Lane School in 1940. Teacher was Mrs. Ethel Ingram. Back Row: Lyle Bronson, Doris Bell, Olive Berquist, Pat Horn, Elvin Harvey, James Bell. Front Row: Helen Baska, Joy Berquist, Jin Reber, Jim Bronson, Glen Reber, Charlie Baska.



Catching gophers at noon hour.



Playing ball in front of School.



Yard cleanup 1943-1944.



Back Row: Jim Bronson, Pat Horn, James Bell, Doris Bell. Front Row: Charlie Baska, Laurel Bronson, Helen Baska.



Ready for town with a four horse team and load of grain. Harvey house in background. This house was later moved by twenty-eight teams 1926.

44-8-1-4

6-44-9

АЛМН

School Site

Co. Pre Owner.

Original
owner of

Original
Header
(Information from
Prov. Archives)

Key

33

2-5-18

4549

100

2

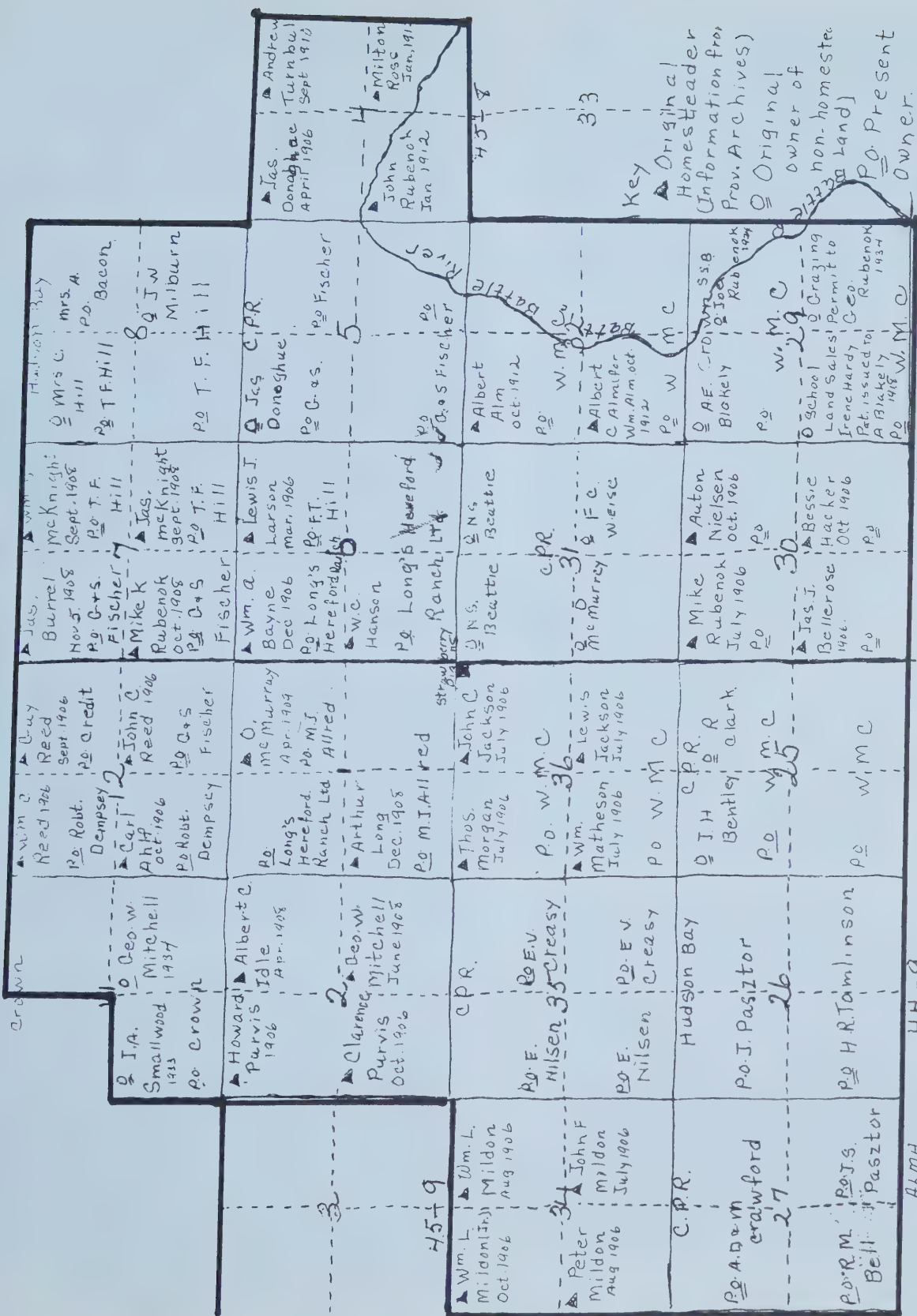
11.11.11

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C. Mrs.

239



STRAWBERRY PLAINS DISTRICT

The area of land which was later to be known as Strawberry Plains was settled in 1906 and 1907. Some of the original homesteaders were Purvis, C.T. Hill, Reed, Mildon, L. Jackson, W. Matheson, M. Rubenok, Angus Chapland, W.A. Bayne, McMurray, Mitchel and Young. Some other settlers were: Louis Larson, J. Champ, Dan McIntyre, A.C. Idle, George O'Leary and Larry Brown - the latter all being bachelors.

During the winter of 1907-08 there were as many as eighty freight outfits (horse or oxen drawn) busy hauling supplies from Hardisty to the railroad bridge over the Battle River as the bridge was then under construction. There were two stopping places to eat and rest both men and animals on the route. One was operated by Mike Rubenok. This land later became the Frank Wiese farm, and still later farmed by Ewert brothers and then Creasys, before being taken into the Wainwright Military Camp. The second stopover was operated by C.T. Hill on what many people knew as the Jim Donaghue farm, now owned by Gordon Fischer.

Later residents include: Milt Ross, Dick Larson, Bouley, Bruce Anderson, Marshall Dawson, A. Turnbull, S. Szoke, Knicely, Walker, Spooner, Forman, C. Gulbraa and A. Firkus.

Some families living in the district during the 1920's, 1930's or 1940's with children attending school: Harvey, Long, Blakely, Matheson, Johnston, Wiese, Tomlinson, B. Dawson, D. Dawson, Satre, Nilson, Hearn, Hill, C. Smallwood, R. Dempsey, Martens, Chase, Bacon and Baska.

One of our well known Canadian writers, Nellie McClung, resided in the district for a short time. Her husband operated a sheep ranch and also sold insurance.

Much of the Strawberry Plains district is in the Wainwright Military Camp.

Some of the families still living there are: Longs, Alfred, Fenton, Hill, Tomlinson, Johnson, and Crawford.

In 1908 a Literary Society was formed and most of the settlers were members. Until the school was built they met in homes. Later they held their meetings every two weeks in the school for the Literary Society and the alternating weeks in private homes for card parties. A revised edition of Literary Society was organized in 1934 which provided card parties, plays and dances.

Mr. Lister was the Lay Minister of the district, holding services in the Purvis home until the school was constructed. Sunday School was taught first in 1910.



Aristocracy of Strawberry Plains. Guess who?



Threshing outfit - Earl Tomlinson, George Rubenok, and Ira Skiles.



Art Long breaking sod with four horses, 1912-1915.



Threshing Crew: Cliff Smallwood, Alex Smallwood, Dean Stimson, Oscar Reitan sitting on the steps, Keith Price. Picture is taken at the Mitchell house.

A baseball team was organized in 1908. Some of the players were Cliff Purvis - second base; Mildon - first base; Jess Ross - catcher; Earl Hardy - pitcher; Stuart Purvis and Earl Tomlinson.

At the July 1st, 1908 celebration at the railroad bridge, Strawberry Plains fielded the championship Tug-of-War team.

During the forties a men's softball was organized which entered tournaments in many districts namely: Batts, Jarrow, Irma, Roseberry and Metropolitan. One time the team was invited to play at the Army Camp and were treated to supper. Not to be outdone the Strawberry Plains team invited the Camp team to play in Irma and hosted a potluck supper at the Cliff Smallwood farm west of Irma.

The players who lived in or around Strawberry Plains district were: Harry Long, Ted Hill, George and Charlie Reed, Gordon Blakely and Cliff and Alex Smallwood. Later in the fifties Norris, Hugh and Garth Tomlinson took part, as did Donald and Jack McKay. Eddie Jackson, Arnold Enger, Melvin Dawson, Pat Spooner and Bill and Art Ewert. Bob Dempsey was the manager and Eddie Jackson the captain. Still a number of others who worked in the district for awhile played for this team, as well as players from farther away.



Joe Hardy, Fred Hill, Irene Hill, Mina Hill, C.T. Hill, Grace Love, Ada Love, (?), in the middle Irene Hardy and Mildred Hill.

THE STRAWBERRY PLAINS W.I.

The Strawberry Plains W.I. was organized on the 27th of June, 1951. Mrs. Brickman, Constituency Convenor, and Mrs. J.C. McLean, a former District of Alberta Director, and 12 Charter Members were present.

Charter members being: Mrs. Peter (Gertrude) Funk, Mrs. Earl (Elma) Tomlinson, Mrs. Harry (Bernice) Long, Mrs. Roy (Marguerite) Reber, Mrs. Wesley (Allison) Bacon, Mrs. Sydney (Ada) Johnson, Mrs. Otto (Margaret) Setter, Mrs. Richard (Nellie) Dawson, Mrs. Arthur (Bessie) Long, Mrs. James (Minnie) Jackson, Mrs. Martin (Esther) Creasy, and Mrs. Pat (Joan) Spooner.

As the population of the farming area has diminished over the years, this organization has spread farther afield and its present members come from several school districts. Over a period of years the membership has changed. The following ladies have been or are still members. Mrs. Alex (Wilma) Cairns, Mrs. Charles (Dorothy) Reed, Mrs. Edward (Lorna) Jackson, Mrs. Theodore (Doreen) Hill, Mrs. Hugh (Aletha) Tomlinson, Mrs. Fred (Norma) Bacon, Mrs. George (Ethel) King, Mrs. Irving (Doreen) Bell, Mrs. Delbert (Micky) Galloway, Mrs. Tom (Sarah) Veenstra, Mrs. Clarence (Mary) Reber, Mrs. John (Betty) Pasztor, Mrs. Lawrence (Hazel) Mitchell, Mrs. Gilbert (Pauline) Large, Mrs. Erling (Della) Nilson, and Mrs. Robert (Helen) Bell.

This organization has a worldwide affiliation as it helps with many projects at home and far afield. The Women's Institute has helped to keep our own community together by organizing Community Picnics and Christmas Parties, as well as helping with many other community projects. The W.I. has helped with the Irma Students Assistance fund and the Rest Room. The Rest Room has since been demolished Strawberry Plains W.I. has sent donations to help with worldwide W.I. projects in Africa, South America, and Asia.

This Branch has an annual bazaar and serves a cold plate dinner each year at the Irma Days Weekend in August.

In 1971 Strawberry Plains W.I. celebrated its 20th Anniversary by having a social evening in the Legion Hall in Irma.



Rocky Ford baseball team, 1919. Standing: Julius Krozier, Tom Ward, Dallas Smith, Steve Krozier, Joe Rubenok. Front: Art Stretch, Lizzie Rubenok, Jake Reed, Lester Metz.



Bert Armitage at Irma, 1925 - barn blew down.

At present we have eight members and the 1984 executive is: President - Lorna Jackson; Secretary - Esther Creasy; Treasurer - Doreen Hill; Handicraft Convenor - Aletha Tomlinson. Other members include Minnie Jackson, Ethel King, Betty Pasztor, and Bernie Long. Our aim is to keep our W.I. active so as to maintain our close community spirit.



Cooks at Pasztor Wedding. Left to Right: Mrs. Alex Szoke, Mrs. Steve Pasztor, Mrs. Frank Baska, Mrs. Earl Tomlinson, Mrs. Jim Hearn, Mrs. Syd Johnston, Mrs. Lovie Bello, Mrs. Pete Funk.



Red Cross Meeting 1944.

STRAWBERRY PLAINS SCHOOL

Strawberry Plains district number 1709 was the first school organized in the Irma area. A meeting of early settlers was held on the open prairie and while Mr. Mike Rubenok was travelling to the meeting place the wheels of his wagon were red from the strawberries so abundant that year. Having come from Tobacco Plains, Montana, he thought the name Strawberry Plains would be appropriate.

Early settlers instrumental in organizing the district were: Angus Shopland, W. Bayne, W. Matheson, F. Jackson, T. Morgan, Michael Rubenok, James Champ, L. Jackson, L. Larson, Carl Ahlf, Mr. Nilson, Mr. Reed, William Mildon Sr., John Mildon Jr., J.A. Clarence, Clifton and Charles Purvis.

The first regular meeting was held on November 11th, 1907 with Mr. J.A. Purvis as chairman, Mr. W.L. Mildon Sr. secretary and W.A. Bayne as treasurer. The school established on N.W. 36-44-9 was built by W.L.



Strawberry Plains School - 1926-27. Back Row: Murray McKillop, Frank Matheson, Ena Leppard (teacher). Middle Row: Nora Long (Schmidt), Harry Long, Dora May (Reed) Frye, Anne Wiese, Gordon Blakely, Leslie Larson. Front Row: Margaret Matheson, Amy Wiese.



Long children, Harry, Nora and Marian, off to school in 1930 with "Chub", the pony.

Mildon Sr. for which he received one hundred and seventy-three dollars. The school cost approximately twelve hundred dollars to build. Conflicting are reports on who contributed the school site, but it was either John Jackson or W.L. Mildon.

The first teacher was Clifton Purvis who left after a year to study law. Other early teachers were: Misses Anna Bear, Mae Gregor, A.B. Carruthers, Esther Hill, Allison McDorman, Mrs. K.G. Kitchen, Misses A. McKnight, Shaw and Jennie Nichol. Mrs. C.M. Christenson, H.A. Mitchell, Miss Victoria Stevens and Miss Ena Leppard were also on the register.

Some of the few pupils to attend were: May, Jake and George Reed, Irma and Howard Mildon, George, Joe, Annie and Lizzie Rubenok, Ellis, Bill and Marion Bayne and two Chapman girls.

The first mention of High School in the minutes was found when G.W. Mitchell was appointed to the High School Board in 1922, followed by A. Blakely in 1923.

In October, 1926 the school was destroyed by fire and Miss Marion Moran held school in the Peterson house. The new school was built by Mr. Ernie Simmons one-half mile east of the original site at a cost of twenty-eight hundred dollars.

Teachers who taught in the school later were: Miss Madeline Hayness, Miss Gladys Dickson, Wilford Malcolm, Wendell Mitchell, Gerda Rosine, Dorcas McGrath, Larry McClay, Mr. Lindberg, Bernice Quance, Louisa Barber, Joyce Sirois, Mrs. W. Meakins and Miss Tena Woloshyn. Miss Isabelle Jackson was a supervisor for a short time during the war. Mrs. Harold Whidden Jr. was the last teacher before the school closed in 1949 and the children bussed to Irma.

In 1943 when Lewisville closed, some of the families attended Strawberry Plains, namely: L. Reber, R. Reber, A. Szoke, Setter. Earlier the Voros and Cotton children had attended.

Some of the school board chairmen were: G.A. Purvis, Charles McKillop, James Burrell, James McKnight, William Matheson, Norman Beattie, Orville Chase, M. Ross, Mr. Dawson, Jim Donoghue, A. Blakely and S. Johnston. The only lady on the school board was Mrs. B.M. Matheson in 1928.

On April 25th, 1910 the inspector signing the register was H.K. Parker.

The community bought the school for a community centre, but sold it in 1953 to the Wainwright Branch of the Canadian Legion when the Department of National Defence bought the land.



Hill family going to school in 1939. Ted, Stan, Mina, Aletha and Muriel.



1939-40. Curtis Satre, Leo Wiese, Ivan Johnston, Ted Hill, Rosy Voros, Tonni Cotton, Almina Hill, Eunice Satre, Norris Tomlinson, Muriel Hill, Winnie Hearn, Margaret Bacon, Murray Dawson, Joyce Dawson, Marjorie Chase, Lily Nilson, Stan Hill, George Blakely, Vera Blakely, Fred Bacon, Merle (Bud) Dawson, Elsie Blakely, Aletha Hill, Leslie Reber, Hugh Tomlinson, Teacher - Dorcas (Magrath) Coffin.



Strawberry Plains teachers - Borghild Meakins, Joyce Sirois.



Strawberry Plains school children, 1939-40.

Monday night when returning from Irma, Mr. F. C. Weise and Earl Tomlinson met a coyote in Askins Coulee east of Irma. The coyote evidently thought it could outrun the car but when Slim stepped on the gas he was not long overtaking it when it dropped on the road evidently from heart failure. The car was ~~stopped~~ and when the coyote was picked up it turned out to be one of the biggest that has been caught for some time. There was no marks on it to show where it had been hit. 1929



Physical Education in the snow - Strawberry Plains school, 1944-45.



Strawberry Plains 1948-49. Erling Nilson, Garth Tomlinson, Teacher Wyonne (Rudd) Whidden, Alice Tomlinson, Doreen Setter, John Hill, Marlene Setter, Marion Setter, Gerald Reber. The school closed after this term.



Strawberry Plains - 1946. Back Row: John Larson, Erling Nilson, Joyce Sirois (teacher), Aletha Hill, Alex Szoke, Hugh Tomlinson, Melvin Dawson, Garth Tomlinson, Bud Dawson. Front Row: Margaret Pastor, Alice Tomlinson, Maureen Dempsey, Jim Szoke, Doreen Setter, Norma Dawson, Mary Szoke.



Elevating grader used to build early roads, owned by Snoose Curtis. Road site north of Ed Jacksons.

An economist is a guy who tells you where your money went after you've spent it.

When a man points a finger at someone else, he should remember that three of his fingers are pointing at himself.

July 24/1909
 Meeting Called to Order
 by the Minister of East
 read approved
 Collection take for Coal
 Oil \$1.15
 Freight payed on Organ
 from Winnipeg to Arima \$10.

Registered
Education for August 31st 1908.
200.00
Cashed in Currency
W. G. Gould
Accountant

Dominion of Canada

Countersigned Dec 31st 1913.

Province of Alberta

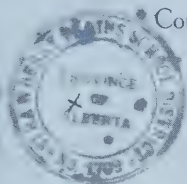
\$1200.00

Countersigned

The Strawberry Plains School District No. 1709 of Alberta

DEBENTURE No.

The Board of Trustees of the Strawberry Plains School District No. 1709 of the Province of Alberta promise to pay to the bearer at the Bank of Montreal at Montreal the sum of one hundred DOLLARS of lawful money of Canada in ten equal consecutive annual instalments with interest at the rate of 7 1/2 per cent. per annum on the terms and in the amounts specified in the Coupons attached hereto.



Countersigned August 31st 1908.

[Signature]

J. B. B. B.

Dated this second day of June 1908

Coupon No. 1. Debenture No. 1.
The Board of Trustees of the Strawberry Plains School District No. 1709 of the Province of Alberta will pay to the bearer at Bank of Montreal at Montreal on the second day of May 1908 the sum of 129.00 dollars, being the 10th instalment of principal with the total interest at the rate of 7 1/2 per cent. per annum on the said school debenture No. 1.
W. G. Gould
Chairman

Moved by Chas. Purvis and seconded Geo. Farrell We have a debate on Aug 21
Moved by Chas. Purvis and seconded by Miss Bane That the suffrage be extended to women
Business Meeting closed.

programme -

Kibitzers
Consider those who,
Though not themselves mothers,
Know just what they'd do
With the children of others.

Moved by Chas. Purvis seconded by M. McMurtry That we again join Kibitzers
Sec. Tres.

		34 H. W. Love 5 1905 46.8-4 C.P.R.			
Thos. Knowles PO Robt. Burton 36	John McPhee June 1908 PO R + M Fischer	E. J. Hayes PO W R Askin. 31	Geo. Higginson 1906 PO D. Burton 32	Albert Higginson Oct 1909 PO Wayne Burton 33	S. Fenton Marathon Realty C.P.R.
Edward Huffman PO R + M Fischer	Beckett Thompson Nov. 1905 PO J. Orcheski	S.A. Beale PO W.R. Askin C.P.R.	H.W. Love March 1909 PO D. Burton PO Robt. Burton	S.C. Miles Mar. 1909 PO R + M Fischer	
E. Hoffman PO J. Orcheski 25	David McBeth PO J. Orcheski C.P.R. Hwy. 14	J. Wm. Gillis 1907 PO D. Barss	Hardy Westbrook Feb 1908 PO D + D Schubada 30	William Newton PO J. Higginson PO J. Newton 29	J.R. Love (BS) PO C.E. Fenton 28
Geo. Sawyer PO Wyand C.P.R. Hwy. 14	David McBeth PO J. Orcheski C.P.R. Hwy. 14	Thos. O. Clark PO J.C. Barber	F.W. Higginson Apr. 1906 PO J. Burton N. Five	Andrew Smart Nov. 1910 PO R. T. Sheppard Oct. 1905 PO Robt. Dempsey 20	Gordon Fenton Gordon Fenton PO S. Fenton 21
Geo. Sawyer 1909 PO M. Wyand 24	John Campbell PO Robt. Dempsey 24	Jas. Lennon PO K. Barber PO S. Fenton 19	Andrew Smart Nov. 1910 PO J. Fenton Aug. 1906 PO G. Fenton 20	R. T. Sheppard Oct. 1905 PO Robt. Dempsey 20	Gordon Fenton Gordon Fenton PO S. Fenton 21
Jas. Huffman June 1909 PO H. Tomlinson	Vernon Cooke Apr. 1906 PO Robt. Dempsey	K. Barber PO K. Barber C.P.R.	Jas. Fenton Aug. 1906 PO G. Fenton	John O'Leary Oct. 1908 PO Robt. Dempsey	Gordon Fenton Gordon Fenton PO S. Fenton 21
Geo. Lyni Sept. 1909 PO H. Tomlinson 13	Thos. Crogan Apr. 1904 PO Everett Henderson Oct. 1909 PO Robt. Dempsey	Robt. Farrell Feb. 1910 PO J.C. Barber PO Geo. O'Leary Aug. 1906 PO T.F. Hill	C.J. Hoffman Feb. 1910 PO Long's Hereford Ranch 8	C.E. Fenton 17	C.J. Smith May 1905 PO S. Fenton 16
Wm. Reed Aug 1909 PO H. Tomlinson	Everett Henderson Oct. 1909 PO Robt. Dempsey	Geo. O'Leary Aug. 1906 PO T.F. Hill	C.T. Hill Apr. 1907 PO T.F. Hill C.P.R.	Wm. C. Ross Nov. 1905 PO S. Fenton	Wm. C. Ross Nov. 1905 PO S. Fenton

45-9-4
ALMA.

45-8-4

S.

Key - P.O. - Present Owner
 O - Original Owner
 ▲ - Homesteader
 (non-homestead lands)
 Sunny Brae - 2015
 Info. obtained from Archives

Hawkins
 Graton Creek
 J.I.W. 9A.
 Bacon
 9
 C.P.R.
 W.C. Johnston

SUNNY BRAE DISTRICT

Settlement of this area, most of Township 45-8 and the east edge of 45-9, began in the spring of 1905. At this time it was still known as the Northwest Territories as the Province of Alberta didn't come into being until September of 1905. The nearest railroad terminal was Edmonton. The Edmonton-North Battleford was the only trail coming anywhere near this area. The settlers brought their supplies by Red River carts drawn by a horse or ox, wagons drawn by horses or oxen, or just plain walked.

Two of our first settlers were here before Alberta became a province. The first one was Chester Smith. He filed on his homestead, N.W. 16-45-8 in May of 1905. In July of 1905 James McGillis filed on S.E. 16-45-8. In November of 1905 Wm. Ross filed on the S.W. of 16-45-8. These men were bachelors. Chester Smith was overcome by gas while digging a well by hand. His helpers couldn't rescue him in time because he was a big man. It became a custom to check these wells for gas. A lighted lantern would be lowered into the well. If it went out it showed that gas was there and it was not safe to dig further.

Mr. McGillis was a first class carpenter, but like the shoemaker's wife who had to do without shoes, lived in a very small unfinished house. It had one room. He was very particular about his farm. He didn't want any weeds brought to it. He was interested in music and encouraged young folk to develop their talents. He was a great reader and was very interesting to talk with. He never splurged on a car and often walked miles to visit with a neighbor. The George McLean family grew up on this farm after his passing.

About 1920 the Wm. Bacon family moved to the Ross land and lived there for several years before moving across the coulee to their own land. Hiram Barton bought the Ross land. It is now part of the Fenton Holdings.

Another 1905 homesteader was Beckett Thompson. He filed on his homestead the S.E. 36-45-9 November 1905. He came from the United States. He, too, was a bachelor. In 1918 he sold the land to J.N.C. Seton and moved to Mannville.

On October 2, 1905 R.T. Sheppard filed on the N.E. 20-45-8. He was a cook by trade and had worked in Edmonton. Mrs. Sheppard died in 1910. He then sold his homestead to Mr. and Mrs. Smart, who with their sons Andrew and William, had come from Scotland.

After Mrs. Smart's passing Jack Fletcher bought the farm. He rented it first to the Dan McLeods and later the Bill Fraser family lived there. The next owner was Ches Feero. He built a new home on the farm. In a few years time he sold the farm to Robert Dempsey.

An interesting story telling about Andrew Smart getting the N.W. of 20-45-8 tells how as soon as that quarter became available for rehomesteading he sat all night on the steps of the Lands Title office in Edmonton so that he would be first to file on this land. As Mr. Sheppard had unknowingly built his house just over the line between the two quarters Andrew didn't need to build a house on the land.

In 1906 more settlers came to the area. These were Fred and George Higginson. They filed on their homesteads in

April. Fred filed on the S.E. 30-45-8 and George on the N.W. 32-45-8. After Fred passed away in 1934 Mrs. Higginson sold the farm and returned to Ontario. Mr. and Mrs. Czeperak were the new owners. They were good farmers and wonderful neighbors. They sold the farm and are now living at Vernon, B.C. Neil Frye bought a building site on this land and lives there. Wayne Burton farms the remainder of the farm. The George Higginson farm is now owned by D. Burton

Other homesteaders who filed on homestead land in 1906 were James Fenton in August and George O'Leary at the same time. Mr. Fenton filed on the S.W. 20-45-8. In May of 1907 he brought their settler's effects and Mrs. Fenton and family came to Hardisty which was the end of the C.P.R. line then. Mr. Fenton drove across to get them. The wives of these early settlers were really made of "good stuff" to face the loneliness and privations. The land is still in the family and is part of the Fenton Ranch Co.

James Larkin also filed on his homestead the S.W. 22-45-8. He was a painter and did painting in Irma before 1911. Other homesteaders on section 22 were T.N. Sellars - S.E. 22-45-8 and Robert Farrell on the N.E. of 22.

Thomas Knowles came from England. He filed on the N.W. 36-45-8. he raised Black Angus cattle and took many prizes with them. He was a very helpful person, helping cheerfully when there was a need. He and his family moved to Uncas in the fifties where he continued to raise Black Angus cattle.

In 1907 Wm. Gillis filed on the N.W. of 30-45-8. It is now owned by D. Barrs.

Edmond Grady took up his homestead on the N.W. of 22-45-8. It was part of the Martin Enger Farm. It is now owned by S. Fenton. Ed Grady moved to Mt. Everett, Washington, U.S.A.

In February of 1907 the Hardy Westbrook family came from Oklahoma, U.S.A. and homesteaded on the N.E. of 30-45-8. When the family went back to the States they sold the farm to Mr. E. LaCroix in 1915. He in turn sold it to Mr. J. Hubman in 1918. The Hubmans had come to the States from Switzerland and after a few years they came to the farm here. The farm has stayed in the Hubman family. The present owners are Dave and Doreen Schubada. Doreen is Mary (Hubman) Kennedy's daughter.

In 1909 the railroad had reached Irma. When H.W. Love and S.C. Miles brought out their settler's effects from Toronto, Ontario the end of the steel was at Farrell's Crossing about two or three miles east of Irma. They had to unload into snowbanks in February. The freight cars weren't picked up until May.

Other homesteaders in 1909 and 1910 were John McPhee - N.E. 36-45-9. Bob Burton farms this land now. George Sawyer N.W. 24-45-9. Now this land is owned by Mrs. M. Wyand. She still lives on the farm. Mr. Sawyer retired to Fancouver after Mr. Wyand bought the farm. John Campbell homesteaded the N.E. 24-45-9. He sold it to Ross Eaton and retired to Edmonton. Mr. Robert Dempsey now owns this land.

Of the early settlers who lived in the Sunny Brae District only the Fenton families, Mrs. Irene Hill and Alma (Miles) Enger still live here.

SUNNY BRAE SCHOOL



A visit to Buffalo Park in 1927. Gordon, Stuart, Eldon (changing tire), a friend, Inez and Isabel. A 1917 Model T with a new price of \$750.00. In the background a 1926 Model T purchased from Elford's garage in Irma.

June 9, 1922 SUNNY BRAE DOINGS

Miss Alice Higgenson of Waterdown Ont., who has spent a year visiting her brothers F. W. and G. N. Higgen-son of this district, left last Satur-day to visit friends in Winnipeg.

Most everybody has finished seed-ing and some have started breaking.

Miss Inez Fenton, who was dele-gate to the W. M. S. Conference in Edmonton, returned home last Thurs-day.

T. N. Sellars and the Smart Bros. are planning to ship a car of oats be-fore long.

We are all taking a peculiar interest in George Sawyer since we noticed the nice curtains and etc.!!? which has taken place lately.

Our High School students are, as usual, all getting real interested as Exams are drawing near, and we all wish them the very best of success for their hard winters work.

The glorious rain which visited our district was very welcome and crops etc., are in the best of condition.

A meeting to organize Sunny Brae school district number 2075 was held September 11, 1909. The first trustees elected were J. Fenton, H. Westbrook, T. Sheppard and S.C. Miles as secretary-treasurer. The school located on the southwest corner of 29-45-8 was a building twenty-four feet by thirty-two feet and painted white with green. The carpenters were H. Westbrook, J.D. Campbell and Jack Gillis. A barn fourteen feet by sixteen feet was built by volunteer labor at a cost of fifty dollars.

School opened June 1, 1910 with Miss Milburn as teacher receiving sixty dollars per month salary. Eldon Fenton was the first janitor who received thirteen dollars for the year. Later Gordon Fenton did the janitor work for ten dollars a year.

The first students were Westbrook children, Alma Miles, Eldon, May, Gordon and Inez Fenton, Edgar Swailes, Orville Chase and Blanche Shafner. In 1912 the Westbrooks left so the school was closed and the children went elsewhere to school until 1914 when more families moved in and the school re-opened. The new pupils were Margaret Miles, Georgina Fenton and Eric Richardson as well as Gladys Stougaard, Martin and Einar Enger from outside the district with Myrtle Lay as teacher.

The next teacher Miss Beth McDonald taught her pupils folk dancing which won for them a prize - a real baseball and bat. Miss Mabel McDonald came next and later Mrs. Carl Christenson taught for many years. Church services and Christmas concerts were held in the school, but it was not until 1924 that dances were allowed.

In 1928 fifteen hundred trees were ordered to beautify the school grounds but few survived. Several wells were bored without success so water was carried from Higginsons and later Kathleen Knowles carried it for seventy-five cents a month. J. Hubman recieved four dollars for a load of wood.

Other trustees were R.L. Eaton, J.N. Seaton, G. Knowles, A. Smart, T.N. Sellars, T. Sanders, M.D. Askin, E. Fenton and S.C. Miles served many years.

Teachers of later years were Misses Kellog, Irving, Ina Askin, E. Morton, M. Bowman, Beer, Freda Forsythe,



Lunch break on the James Fenton farm. Left to Right: Rev. D.W. Pomeroy, Alice Pomeroy, Eldon Fenton, Gordon Fenton, May Fenton, Helen Pomeroy, Stuart Fenton and Georgina Fenton.



Douglas, Hazel Congdon, Phyllis Thurston, Mabel Holt, Jean Craig and Joyce Sirois.

Sunny Brae students were bussed to Irma from 1949 on. Later the school was moved to Irma and used for primary grades. When the new Irma school was built Clarence and Jenny Barber bought the Sunny Brae School and remodelled it to make a comfortable farm home.



Sunny Brae School - 1947. Front Side: Maureen (Patterson) Clark, Mary (Dootson) Newton, Valda Fenton, Clair Feero, Harold Dootson, Irene Barton, Bessie Barton, Neil McLean, (?), Jack Kennedy, Sylvia (Fenton) Shaw, Rita (Fenton) Anderson, Irene (Dootson) Crabb, (?), McLean, Freda Feero.



Sunny Brae School. Some of the family names are: McLeans, Pascha, Kennedy, Dootson, Fenton and Barton.



Sunny Brae School pupils.

SUNNY BRAE NEWS

George Newbury has just recovered from a sudden attack of Scarlet fever that proved to be only slight.

We are sorry though that he loses so much valuable time from his studies.

The last meeting of the Literary Society proved very interesting in that much enjoyment was derived from each number rendered. One number introduced an oration from all members of the school, excepting of course Grade 1, on 'The Escaped Cow'. Harry read very ably 'The Shooting Song,' and seemed to mean every word of it, especially the stanza referring to the Conquest of the Bandits, and the rescue of the Lady. It was a thrilling dream.

Clara Myles has returned to school again, she was forced to stay home during the stormy weather.

The pupils that bring their lunches to school prepare hot cocoa at noon. A luncheon at noon, without some hot drink is inclined to make the pupils drowsy during the afternoon session, thus it lowers their efficiency in their studies.

The pupils are clearing off a plough for a skating rink behind the school house. It thus relieves the monotony of attending a country school by enabling them to skate during the noon hour.

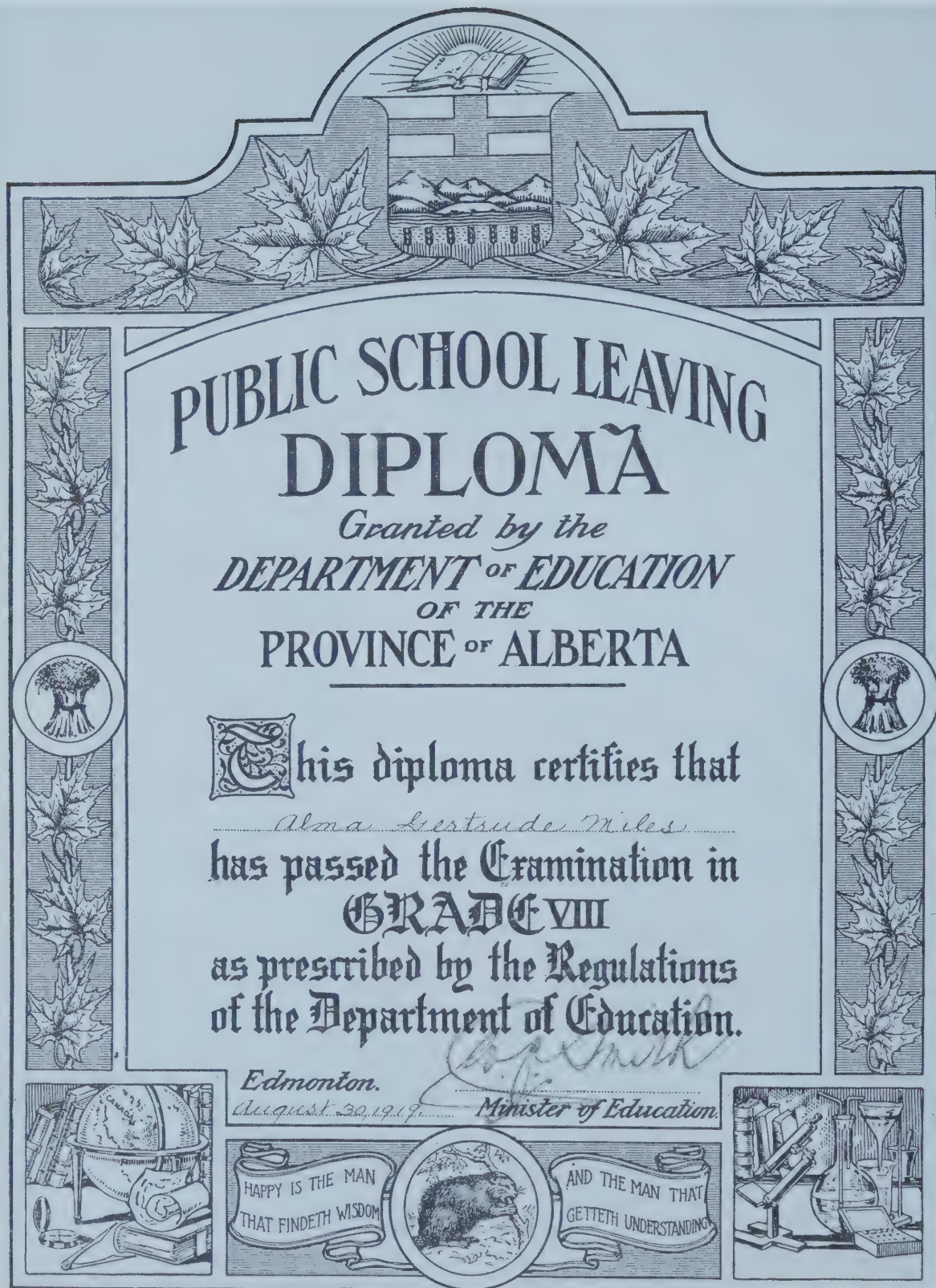
The school axe which disappeared some time ago from the school house has been found. It was in a bush about half a mile from the school.

The attendance has decreased considerably since the stormy weather has set in.

School is now being called at nine o'clock in the morning owing to the lengthening of the days.

Inflation has become so bad that it has even hit the price of feathers; even down is up.

It's nice to have four years between elections, it takes people that long to regain their faith.



PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVING DIPLOMA

Granted by the
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OF THE
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

This diploma certifies that
Alma Gertrude Miles
has passed the Examination in
GRADE VIII
as prescribed by the Regulations
of the Department of Education.

Edmonton.

August 30, 1919.

Minister of Education.

HAPPY IS THE MAN
THAT FINDETH WISDOM



AND THE MAN THAT
GETTETH UNDERSTANDING

48-10-4

48-9-4

C.P.R. 27 ▲ Bert Shaife P.O. Mixburn Colony	Hudson Bay P.O. Mixburn Colony ▲ Payne 26	C.P.R. P.O. community Pasture 25 ▲ Birch	48-9-4 ▲ S. Benson P.O. Community Pasture 30 ▲ W. Jackson ▲ W. Britton
▲ Earl Moore P.O. L Martin 22 ▲ Earl Moore P.O. L Martin	C.P.R. P.O. Mixburn Colony 23 ▲ Geo. Fertig 1918	▲ Robt. Bugg 1911 P.O. Mixburn Colony 24 ▲ Harry Vandervaat 1912 ▲ Jas. Brady 1910 Willow View	Q J. Brady P.O. Community Pasture 19 Q J. Brady C.P.R.
C.P.R. P.O. Mixburn Colony 15	▲ Ross Shippy P.O. H. FAULKNER 14 ▲ Henry Woolford Dec. 1916 P.O. H.A. SMITH ▲ Francis M. Marbet Aug. 1914 P.O. Mrs. B. GREENWOOD	C.P.R. P.O. P.M. Holt 13	▲ Pete Nicholson Aug. 1911 P.O. Community Pasture 18 ▲ Robt. P. Brown Mar. 1913 P.O. R.M. Holt ▲ Jasper Shippy July 1914 ▲ Chas. Morrison Apr. 1920
▲ Geo. G. Chapman Aug. 1911. S.A.V. P.O. R. Greenwood 10 ▲ Richard Hopper (Jr.) Apr. 1911. S.A.V. P.O. B. Greenwood ▲ Geo. G. Chapman Aug. 1911 S.A.V. P.O. R. Greenwood ▲ John Herrick (Jr.) Aug. 1911 P.O. B. Greenwood	School Land 11	▲ Wallace R. Herr Nov. 1914 P.O. P.M. Holt 12 ▲ John Herrick Sept. 1913 P.O. P.M. Holt ▲ Donald Hollar Oct. 1928 P.O. ▲ Howard E. Herrick Dec. 1916 P.O.	C.P.R. P.O. M. Holt 7 P.O. R.M. Holt

ALMA

Willow View SD - 3510

Key.

▲ Homesteader

Q Original Owner of non-homestead land

P.O. Present owner

■ School site.

WILLOWVIEW DISTRICT AND SCHOOL

The first settlers in the Willowview district were Mr. and Mrs. James Brady and family, who arrived in the summer of 1910 and homesteaded on the S.E. 24-48-10, while son, Tim filed on the N.E. quarter. The Brady's owned a large herd of cattle and had previously homesteaded near Lougheed, but as the settlers arrived, and land became fenced, the need for open range motivated their move northward.

Homestead land was gradually taken from 1910 to 1916.

1911 saw the Robert Bugg family file on the N.W. 24-48-10, while in 1912 the Harry Vandervaates arrived to settle on the S.W. quarter.

Other settlers arriving and taking up homestead land on section 14 were the Sam MacKeys on the S.W. quarter, Marbels on the S.E., Henry Wilfred on the N.E. and Ross Shippy on the N.W. quarter.

Section 18-48-9 was also filed on about the same time with Pete Nicholson on the N.W., Jasper Shippy on the N.E., Charles Morrison on the S.E. and Mr. Brown, a brother of Mrs. Vandervaates on the S.W.

Mr. and Mrs. Herrick and son Howard took the south half of 12-48-10, while Wallace Herr, built himself a small house on the N.W. quarter.

The N.W. 22-48-10 was filed on by Bert Skaife with Earl Moore on the east half. Charles Hooper homesteaded on the N.E. 10-48-10.

Other families who resided in the district were Mr. and Mrs. Pete Blaine and four boys on S.W. 14-48-10, which had been homesteaded by Sam MacKey sometime before. World War II saw the Blaine boys, Gail, Gene, Ralph and Bob all in uniform. Others living in the district at one time were the Scott Dominey, Lusheirs, and the Kavanaughs.

Mr. George Fertig arrived about 1918 with a large string of Percheron horses which he sold to early settlers. He lived in two well constructed dugouts on the N.E. corner of 23-48-10.

Early settlers recall an abundance of grass, many sloughs, but no trees. A prairie-fire the summer of 1919, which started on F. Fertig's land burned several miles northwest before being brought under control.



Henry Woolford's homestead on N.E. 14-48-10.



Leslie and Annie Pyke.



Gas well on 29-48-10 in 1929, wooden derrick.



Oil rig tipped over south of the School.

By this time the need for a school seemed apparent, so a meeting was held on August 16, 1918 with James Brady as chairman, Bert Skaife as Secretary-Treasurer, and Wallace Herr as a trustee. Mr. Skaife received \$50.00 salary for one year's work. The district formed was partly in Lakeview Municipality and partly in Buffalo Coulee. Tenders were advertised for the building of the school and Messrs. McColman and Monroe's offer of \$1,250 was accepted. The school was built on the S.W. corner of 24-48-10, bought from Mr. Harry Vandervaate for \$50.00. It was a high rise of land with a good view to the east and south, which lead to the name Willowview.

By the time the school was built many families had moved and because of lack of pupils the school didn't open until June 1, 1921 with Miss Ina Askin of Irma the first teacher. She received a salary of \$1,100 dollars. That year the school closed Decmeber 22nd and reopened April 1, 1922 with Miss Annie Fulton as teacher. A coal shed was built and Charles Herrick hauled coal for \$4.00 a ton. Miss Marjorie Bennett taught from August 1st until December 20, 1923. Mr. Frank Addison taught from April 1, 1924 until the end of December. Mrs. Westover taught from February 1st until late December, 1925. Other teachers were Miss Ethel Drury, Mrs. R.L. Rohrer, Mrs. L. Reynolds and Miss A. Horinek. Lack of pupils forced the school to close in the late twenties and again from 1934 until November, 1943. At this time Miss Genon Theroux took up teaching duties. She later became the bride of Mr. Ross Astley, a district bachelor. She was followed by Miss Almina Hill, Miss Elizabeth Fucsko, Miss Shiela Johnston, Mr. Harry Lewin, Mrs. Marjorie Astley, Mr. S. Boyko and Mr. C. Allen. Some of the early ones mentioned served as supervisors for the children taking correspondence courses. The school was closed for good the summer of 1955, with the children being bussed to Minburn and Albert Centralized school. Later with the closure of Albert Centralized School the children attended Irma School.

Some of the families whose children attended Willowview were, R. Legacy, Pete Blaine, Kavanaugh, Harry Vandervaate, Hiram Astley, Tim Brady, John Brady, V.D. Faulkner, A. Faulkner, H. Ellwood, K. Whitton, R. Breckinridge, E. Pocock, S. Prosser, L. Hunter, and T. Greenwood.

Some of the school board members were James Brady, Bert Skaife, Jack Herrick, Erling Leeland, Samual Benson, Scott Dominey, Pete Blaine, Harry Woolford, Howard Herrick, Harry Vandervaate, Sherman Prosser, Debs Faulkner, John Brady, Mrs. Lizzie Vandervaate, and Mrs. H. Herrick.

The school was the center for local gatherings. Christmas concerts were always a highlight with the school picnic following a close second. Many dances were held with Ben, John or Tim Brady supplying music on their fiddles.

The district families joined Rodino and were very active during the war years raising money for the Red Cross and Belgium Relief Fund.

The district had been virtually hail free until July 10, 1970 when a large portion of the district received 100% hail damage, and tornado force winds.

The Willowview district shows little resemblance to the pioneer days with no original settlers of their families living in the area. The Mixburn Hutterites Colony owns much of the land to the north and west while the community pasture includes some of the land to the north and east. Only Mrs. Debs Faulkner and the P.M. Holts live in the district now.

Thus, in a short span of 70 years progress has changed a once isolated district to farms which are highly mechanized and enjoying the conveniences of cross-country highways, electricity, water and sewer, T.V. and dial telephone service.



1949. Lottie Greenwood, James and Ellen Brady.



Sonny, Bruce, Everett and Lottie Greenwood off to school.



Willowview School, June, 1949 - Teacher - Genon Astley. Back Row: Lottie Greenwood, Ellen Brady, James Brady, Everett Greenwood, Dorothy Faulkner, Beth Ellwood. Middle Row: Jean Faulkner, Vernon Brady, Eddy Brady. Front Row: Stanley Brady, Ken Whitten.



Willowview spring of 1949 - note the heater and pipes. Those were the days!



Class in November, 1943 included Les Brady, Les Prosser, G. Theroux, Ellen Brady, Marvin Prosser, Dorothy Faulkner, Gwen, James, Vernon and Eddy Brady.



Winners of the trackmeet, Connie Vandervaate, Everett Greenwood, Lottie Greenwood and Jean Faulkner.



James Brady, Ellen Brady, Lottie Greenwood, Vernon Brady, Lloyd Brady on stilts in 1949.

HE HADN'T TIME

Commended to persons afflicted with hurryitis.

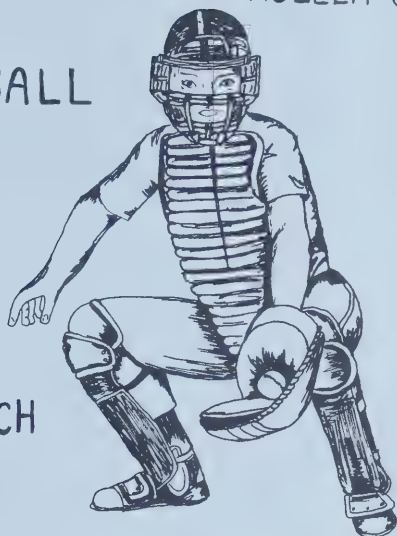
He hadn't time to greet the day,
 He hadn't time to laugh or play;
 He hadn't time to wait awhile,
 He hadn't time to give a smile;
 He hadn't time to glean the news,
 He hadn't time to dream or muse;
 He hadn't time to train his mind,
 He hadn't time to be just kind;
 He hadn't time to see a joke,
 He hadn't time to write his folk;
 He hadn't time to eat a meal,
 He hadn't time to deeply feel,
 He hadn't time to take a rest,
 He hadn't time to act his best;
 He hadn't time to help a cause,
 He hadn't time to make a pause;
 He hadn't time to pen a note,
 He hadn't time to cast a vote;
 He hadn't time to sing a song,
 He hadn't time to right a wrong;
 He hadn't time to send a gift,
 He hadn't time to practice thrift;
 He hadn't time to exercise,
 He hadn't time to scan the skies;
 He hadn't time to heed a cry,
 He hadn't time to say good-bye;
 He hadn't time to study poise,
 He hadn't time to repress noise;
 He hadn't time to go abroad,
 He hadn't time to serve his God;
 He hadn't time to lend or give,
 He hadn't time to really live;
 He hadn't time to read this verse,
 He hadn't time—he's in a hurry
 He's dead!

CHAPTER 5

GOLFING

ROLLER SKATING

FASTBALL



SLOWPITCH

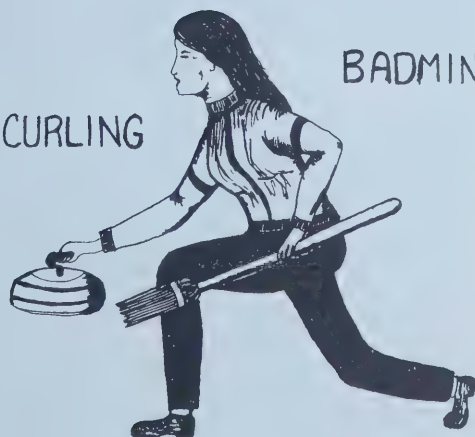
FIGURE SKATING

SPORTS

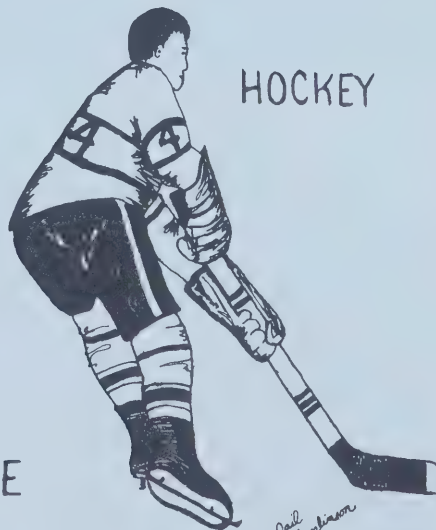
BADMINTON

HOCKEY

CURLING



RINGETTE



Paul Johnson

FAIRS AND ENTERTAINMENT

BASEBALL IN IRMA

Irma was famous for its baseball teams from 1909 to the early 1950's. At an Agricultural Society picnic in 1909 the Irma team lost their first game three to two to Strawberry Plains but won a game from Hardisty. In 1910 Irma won the Dawson Cup by defeating Wainwright and defended it in 1911. The Dawson Cup was a Senior Alberta "A" Challenge Cup.

In the early days each community had its own team and they played each other - Strawberry Plains, Coal Springs, Orbindale and Irma. For going away the Irma team was reinforced by players from the outlying districts.

Baseball took second place to World War One but came into its own again in 1918, and was prominent until World War Two. Bob Kirkman was instrumental in promoting baseball after the war. It flourished until around 1953 when it faded out at Irma. Some players went to other towns to continue the sport.



Irma ball players, third person back row from left is Ed McDowell. Front Row, Left to Right: Jack Tate, Don McCready, Berge Gulbraa, others unidentified.



Irma Ball Team in 1910. Some of the players are: Slim Peterson, (?), Cliff Toll, Billy Stewart, Elmer Erickson, (?), (?), Allan Harper, John Erickson, Bert Eis could be in the picture.



Irma Ball Team on July 12, 1918. R.C.M.P., Bill Wyatt, Lon Hughes (?), Burney Ewers, Ed McDowell, P.E. Jones, Scorekeeper, Bill Stewart. Front Row: L.L. Guiltner, Rub Henry, Alan Harper.



Unidentified ball team, about 1910.



Irma ball team.

IRMA TIGERS

In 1952 Mervin Lovig and Cliff Firkus started the Irma Ball Club. It was called the Triangle Tigers which later was changed to Irma Tigers. The original team players were Mervin Lovig, Ron Lovig, Bill King, Hugh Tomlinson, Keith Steele, Clark Steele, Keith Firkus, Cliff Firkus, Jack MacKay and Gordon Lovig.

The team played ball until about 1970 and then started again with the team of John Ganie, Allan Jones, Jay Fenton, Mervin Firkus, Ken Ford, Fred Ford, Wallace Ford, Kenny McKie, Keith Cornish, with Cliff Firkus the playing coach. Altogether approximately seventy players have played with the team on a very competitive basis.



Irma Tigers Ball Club in May, 1978. Tom Parsons, Al Fenton, Garnet MacKay, Dwight MacKay, Allan Jones, Cliff Firkus, Greg Fischer, Ken McIntosh, Leonard Parsons, Mervin Firkus, Mervin MacKay, Mike Soucy, Ray Tomlinson, Charlie Soucy, Jay Fenton, Kevin MacKay, John Ganie is missing. Coach is Cliff Firkus.

JUNIOR FASTBALL

In 1978 Mel Garbe coached the Juniors who had a good combination; power hitting, much speed and good pitching. Brooks hosted these games where we won six out of seven played on one day.

Red Deer hosted the 1979 games but we didn't make out as well that time. Members of the above teams were: Brian and Kent Gulbraa, Dale and Raymond Tomlinson, Mervin and Kevin MacKay, Greg Fischer, Alan and Leonard Parsons, Joey Jones, Mervin Firkus, Brian Burr, Al Fenton, Marvin Holt, Darryl Nilson and Wayne Leskow, two Sutter boys.

IRMA LANCERS

by Phil Holt

Irma Lancers originated in 1973 as a brain child of "Chic" Shaw, who promoted development of a fastball team made up of boys from the Irma Midget hockey team. Other boys were also recruited to make up enough players. The Irma Tigers were the main senior fastball team at that time and the Lancers were composed mostly of boys with no other place to play ball. In 1974 "Chic" purchased uniforms for his boys and the outfit began to get serious about winning ball games. They joined the Wainwright Fastball League and under successful coaching of Chic, Trudy Holt and Mel Garbie, the boys molded into a very competitive, enthusiastic group of ball players. In 1978 and again in 1979 the team won the league championship and were a team to be reckoned with at all the local ball tournaments at that time.

LADIES' SOFTBALL

The Irma Ladies have enjoyed playing softball for many years. During the thirties Ed Sharkey coached the team. From the late sixties until the present time, the Irma Tigerettes have participated in many sports days. Coaches over the years have been: Garnet Wahlund, Wayne Larson, Charlie Soucy, and Erling Nilson.

MIDGET SOFTBALL

There have been many fine softball and baseball teams in Irma over the years. In 1977 Butch and Marian Fischer recognized the superior talent among the boys of Midget age (that is up to sixteen years). They set about getting the zone seven playoffs held in Irma.

The boys looked sharp in their green and white uniforms and easily won the zone title and the right to represent the zone at the Alberta Summer Games held at Red Deer. They won every game and, as a result, received the gold medal.

Irma's line-up was: Mervin, Kevin, and Dwight MacKay; Dale and Raymond Tomlinson; Brian Burr; Kent Gulbraa; Greg Fischer; Lyle Barss; Duane and Brent Sutter; Wayne Leskow; Kevin Hobbs; Phil Burton; Greg Arneson; Bruce Almond; and Doug Fischer as bat boy. The Coach was Mel Garbe, with Butch Fischer as manager.

Most of these Irma boys, with others added, played in Junior Games until they reached the age limit of twenty-one years.

Since then John Ganie has coached several Junior teams and they have made a fine showing as well.

*Some people jog for exercise,
And some for recreation,
But with the price of gasoline,
I jog for transportation!*



Irma Lancers "A" Champions, 1978. Back Row, Left to Right: Joe Holt, Kent Gulbraa, Leonard Parsons, Gordon Holt, Brian Gulbraa, Marvin Holt, Allan Fenton, Brent Fischer, Mel Garbe. Front Row: Howard Jackson, Daryl Nilson, Greg Fischer, Allan Parsons, Dale Nilson, Leonard Jones, (missing from picture Brian Burr).



The Midget Ball Team in Red Deer when the Irma boys won the Gold Medal in the Alberta Games in 1977.

BOXING

Boxing in Irma got its start when Charlie Clark, a middleweight from the coast had a couple of boxing matches against opponents from Stettler and Alliance. Other boxers to follow were Burt Stimpson and a Mr. McCully from Batt district did some wrestling.

Jim Hedley promoted boxing as a sport and the crowds were enthusiastic. When Pete Spring came in 1926, he fought two successful fights against opponents from Stettler and Brooks. In 1927 Charlie Archibald took on the winner of Kid De Barr from Saskatoon and Tom Brown of Alliance. His first punch won the match. Several matches followed.

Jim Kennedy acted as trainer for Charlie. Several young fellows of the district acted as sparring partners. These were: L. Nash, W. Myers, George Dawson, George Fischer, D. Coffin, G. Foreman, G. McBain, Art Larson, Red Larson, J. Carter, Lefty Lukens and others. Many good fights were staged among these boys.

During the years 1929-30 Charlie had several successful fights. Under the direction of Doc McBride from Hardisty, Charlie went to Vancouver to receive professional training. A highlight of this was when he became a sparring partner to Jimmy McLaren the world champion at twenty-five dollars a bout.

One winter at a boxing tournament at Viking several Irma boys participated. Art Larson v.s. Wenstob (draw), G. McBain v.s. Tommy Greenwood (draw), L. Nash v.s. Myers (draw), Pete Spring K.O. d C. Arkinstal in two rounds, Lefty Lukens v.s. I. Walch (draw).

In 1933 Battling Red Larson had two main fights winning by K.O. over Hallet of Edgerton in two rounds and getting a draw with W. Young of Ribstone.

Curly Kid Archibald fought some of the best men in western Canada. He hung up his gloves for two years, but in 1935 fought E. Wenstob and lost in the ninth round. Curly then decided he was too old for the game.

After four years of retirement Curly Kid was coaxed into fighting Gordon Grayston of Wainwright. The Wainwright theater was crowded for the event as Curly Kid won the match in the seventh round. Other events had Kid Anderson v.s. Red Larson (draw) and John Archibald v.s. George Archibald (draw).

Curly Kid Archibald had an impressive record losing only seven fights out of forty-two. The Irma boxers gave the town a good name in sports.

PEOPLE

Some people are like wheelbarrows ... they don't go anywhere unless pushed. Some are like canoes ... they need to be paddled. Some are like kites ... keep a string on them or they fly away. Some are like kittens ... more contented when petted. Others resemble footballs ... no way to tell which way they'll bounce next. Then there are the balloons ... full of air, ready to blow up. Some are like neon lights ... they flash on and off. Then there are those who are like good watches ... open faced, pure gold, quietly busy and full of good works.



CURLY KID ARCHIBALD

IRMA CURLING CLUB

by Keith Coffin and Charlie Milne

Records indicate that in 1940 a number of local residents who had previously curled aroused interested curlers in establishing a club in Irma. The first meeting was held in Hedley's Hall on December 2, 1941 where all possibilities were discussed. Out of twenty-three persons attending, seventeen voted in favor of forming a curling association. Ted Berreth was elected president, Jack Fletcher first vice, I.S. Reeds second vice and R.H. Ott secretary-treasurer, Stan Brown ice manager and E. Sharley Sr. ice maker. At that time there was no building but Jack Fletcher had vacated his old hardware building on the east side of Main Street and it became available for dismantling. Reverend E. Longmire, the United Church minister, was a good carpenter so under his supervision the many volunteer men and women assisted to salvage sufficient lumber and nails to erect a two sheet building. It was built alongside of the old skating rink. The sum of six hundred and fifty dollars had been raised to keep the

project going.

The next recorded meeting was held in the new rink on November 18, 1943 and it was decided to raffle a pair of Hudson Bay blankets to raise money to buy rocks. A second hand set of unmatched rocks of various weights and shapes were purchased from Queen City Curling Club. Quite a few members bought individual new sets and made them available when their owners weren't curling. The first local bonspiel was held February 10, 1944 with sixty-four participants competing for the big prizes consisting of twenty cups and saucers at one dollar each and war saving stamps to the value of four dollars each.

As the curling fever increased with nearly all the local residents and most of the farmers taking an active part in the Club activities, it soon called for more ice. So in 1959 the local enthusiasts joined hands to split the old building and add a third sheet. A new, much improved waiting room, was built with modern kitchen and washroom facilities and a huge cistern in the basement to store rain water for our ice making. This new set up brought our open spiel entry to as high as forty-eight rinks - one year there were sixteen local rinks, sixteen from Wainwright and sixteen from the other neighbor clubs. With such interest in the game our next step was installation of an artificial ice plant in 1964. This was an outstanding project because we had to remove the gumbo clay soil from the ice area down about six feet and then refill it with gravel. The artificial plant cost thirteen thousand dollars and we had to raise another three thousand for the engine room and building materials. All this was raised through loans and donations and every dollar was multiplied with many hours of volunteer labor - which applied to every operation along the progress of the curling club.

All these old projects became history when the younger generation of curlers ruled our old rink out of date. So in 1980 they tore down the rink and sold the property. This resulted in a two season gap for curling in Irma. In the meantime every feasible fund was searched out and once again with nearly all volunteer labor, erected a four sheet super structure at the sports ground, west of the hockey arena. It has the most modern quick-freeze plant, fluorescent lit ice area, spacious waiting room, kitchen and bar facilities - a real credit to our village. And our bonspiels are again filled with many repeat entries. Mrs. Annie Milne holds the honor of being the only charter member since 1945 and is also still curling regular draws. The curling rink has a cement floor and provides lots of room for many social activities during the off curling season.



25th Anniversary of Irma Curling Club Feb., 1964. Standing: Keith Coffin Pres., on his right Selmar Hafso, Stan Brown and Herb Black. On his left Henry Ruste, H.G. Thunnel.



Irma Curling Rink.



Curlers at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the rink. Back Row: Martin Enger, Eugene Carter, Dick McRoberts, Eldon Fenton. Front Row: Stan Brown, Bill Matthews, Ross McFarland, Sr. and Herb Black.



Lady Curlers, 1946, in front of old rink. Back Row: May Carter, Mrs. Longmire, Mazel Frickleton, Janie Black, Mrs. Elford. Front Row: Ellen Brown, Betty Parsons, Sophie Ostad, Alice Fletcher, Fern Hockett, Mary Smith, Annie Milne.



Ladies' Curling in Irma: Annie Milne, Irene MacKay, Alice Cook, and Elsie Pond.

Senior's curling at the Shamrock Club in Edmonton. Left to Right: Archie Cook, Jack Ballentine, Joe Burton in 1982, and Charlie Milne.



The Curling Widower 74/38

I met a curling widower and he was
very glum,
He said, "I don't know where clean
sox or meals are coming from;
There is a bonspiel at the rink and
all the wives are there,
And husbands true are cast aside and
told to take the air."
I listened to his sad lament and then
I chanced to say:
"Of course you won't be at the rink
to see the ladies play."
He shook his head and off he went,
and I felt very sad,
To think a woman could be cruel to
such a kindly lad.

But as the 'spiel was warming up and
competition grew,
The little group of husbands at the
rink was growing, too.
At first they sat in silence and ap-
peared a trifle bored,
And then they clapped, and then they
cheered, and then they fairly
roared.
And as the games drew to a close
the spouses stood in line,
And broadly grinned as curlers scored
as if to say, "She's mine!"

I met a curling widower, and he was
very gay,
He said: "You surely should have
seen the little woman play;
I think that curling is the greatest
sport you'll ever find,
And here's a husband who is g'd his
wife's the curling kind."
And as he pointed to the shelf, he
proudly told me: "There
My Liza always carries home the
choicest silverware."



Hi C - Irma United Church Young People's Group curling in Hardisty Bonspiel in 1963. Skip - George Millar; Third - Dorothy Ballentine; Second - Gordon Darling; Lead - Barbara Fenton.



Archie Cook, Donald McKay, Bill Dootson, and Bill Veer - winners of the Wainwright Farmers' Bonspiel in January, 1959. All are Irma curlers.



Canadian Championship Winner of Massey Ferguson Curlorama 1968. Left to Right: Gordon Maxwell, Doug Dobry, Norman Maxwell and George Dobry from Viking and M.F. Dealer Keith Coffin from Irma. Taken in Toronto.



IRMA FISH AND GAME, RIFLE AND GUN CLUB

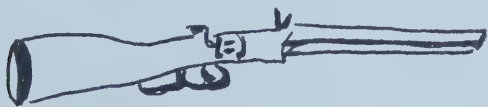
The Club has been in existence since 1955, attempting with some success to serve the interests of fishermen and hunters and promoting good sportsmanship, hunter safety, conservation and good relations between hunters and landowners. Membership has varied from approximately thirty to more than one hundred. The organization is affiliated with the Alberta Fish and Game Association and all members are covered by insurance provided through the provincial organization.

The Irma Club was instrumental for several years in having a pond on the Owen farm stocked with rainbow trout fingerlings. However, this location was unsatisfactory because only small numbers of the fish survived. The search for a suitable body of water continues. The chief problems appear to be the shallowness of the local ponds and the alkalinity of the surface water in the Irma area.

For a number of years the Club has sponsored in the month of June a three-day fishing Derby at one of the fish-bearing lakes to the north. These Derbies have been very successful, providing as they do opportunities for family outings to those who are interested in camping and fishing. Prizes are awarded in several categories for those who catch the biggest fish. It is a time for sport, socializing, relaxing and eating. Each Derby ends with a fish-fry on the morning of the last day.

Since 1971 one of the more popular events of the winter has been the Annual Fish and Game Dinner held in the Irma School Auditorium in January or February. The dinner features a wide variety of fish and game dishes, as well as more traditional foods, and attracts capacity crowds of approximately three hundred people. The meal is followed by an interesting program centered around hunting, fishing, wildlife photography and conversation. Trophies are presented to club members who have caught the biggest fish, bagged the biggest birds and the most impressive pairs of antlers. Obviously, the success of the Game Dinners has been due in very large measure to the wives of the club members and the other good cooks in the Community who have contributed their time and skills.

In the spring of 1983, the Club embarked on a five-year pheasant-raising program. Pheasant pens were constructed by Bill Inkin, Jr. and by the Clifton Holt family. The pheasant chicks are obtained from the Provincial Hatchery at Brooks and are raised in the pens to be released in the fall. Because of the very successful work of the Holt and Inkin families, upwards of two hundred pheasants are being released each year in the Irma district.



August 8, 1946 - We thought we saw an ogopogo in Shaw's slough the other day but closer examination proved it to be our resident M.L.A.'s Jersey cow.

Over the years a persistent band of "stand bys" has formed the core of the Club. Among these have been the late Ervin Prosser, the late Robert Hansen and the late Milt Fahner. Others are Ole Raasok, Torlief Larson, Charlie Allen, Gordon Hollinger, Len Skori, Ted Hill, Donald Gunn and Fred Clumstad. In recognition of his long service as Membership Chairman, Fred Clumstad, when he and his wife moved to Camrose, was made an Honorary Life Member of the Irma Club.

In recent years, a happy development has been the increase in the number of young and active members who are infusing the group with new energy and enthusiasm, giving the Club confidence for the future.



October 16, 1953 - There's a sad tale of Red Frickleton and Johnny Randall who went out to shoot ducks and fell asleep while waiting for them to settle. Our informant didn't say if the ducks were sitting on the gun barrels when the boys woke up but the general impression was that a good nap was all the hunters could claim on that trip.

IRMA GYMKHANA CLUB

The Gymkhana Club was organized in Irma in 1963. The late Mr. Stan Murray was the first president, a position he held until his death in early 1968.

Horseback riders of all ages and sexes from surrounding communities, gathered to participate in this sport.

A Stan Murray Memorial Trophy was donated for annual competition for the highest points in the Barrel Race and was in the hands of Jimmy Owen in 1972. The club is no longer active.

IRMA GOLF CLUB

Golfing in Irma was first organized in 1922 with a five hole course. Leading off from a point south of the Roman Catholic Church it progressed westerly to where the Shell Crossroads service station now operates, then north as far as Northwestern Utilities headquarters back east to the present hockey Arena area.

Some of the early timers who played were Mr. and Mrs. R. McFarland (Sr.), Dr. McGregor, Mr. and Mrs. Jardine (B/M Manager), Mr. and Mrs. Tucker (hardware store), Mr. and Mrs. Roy White (C.N.R. agent), and Fred Watkinson (cream station). The club only operated three years.

In controversial moments
My perception's extra fine;
I always see both points of view —
The one that's wrong, and mine!

In 1960 there was a renewed interest in golf amongst the town and country residents and a new club was organized. Mr. Norman Blades was elected President of the men's club and Mrs. Blades was President of the ladies' club. It was decided to purchase sixty acres along the east side of Emil Wirth's S.E. 34-45-9 for three thousand dollars on a time payment deal. The money to start the ball rolling was raised by individual loans and donations.

Norman Blades was manager of Northwestern Utilities and for the first year was able to use machinery from their plant to mow and maintain the course in reasonable playing condition. In 1962 a new P.T.O. rotary mower was purchased and the local machine agents loaned tractors for power. So with mostly all volunteer help the nine hole course soon became a hive of activity. A clubhouse was built and Tee-off shelters at nearly every hole - then several hundred trees planted. All this was completed and the final land payment met at the end of six years.

There has been some minor changes in fairway yardage and green locations, otherwise the same challenging two thousand six hundred forty-nine yards par thirty-five. We keep drawing above average entries at all our tournaments. The first individual to ever score a hole in one was Mrs. Annie Milne on number three hole. David Ho also has scored one since then on number three hole.

Now as this report goes to press a new modern clubhouse is being built. The Kinsmen club has offered financial support and Calgary Power will be installed - compliments of Mrs. Elsie McRoberts and families in memory of 'Dick' who was an ardent golfer and who served generously in every respect to keep the club a credit to our community. A beautiful club trophy was donated by Mrs. Louisa Prosser and families in memory of 'Gus' who was another charter member and spent endless time and effort to foster our club.

The future of Irma Golf Club will certainly flourish while we have leaders like our President, John Dunbar. It appears the Scottish golf fever must have been born in him and his boys. Ian Dunbar holds the low total score for our course at (thirty-one).



Annie Milne with her hole-in-one trophy.

SENIOR HOCKEY

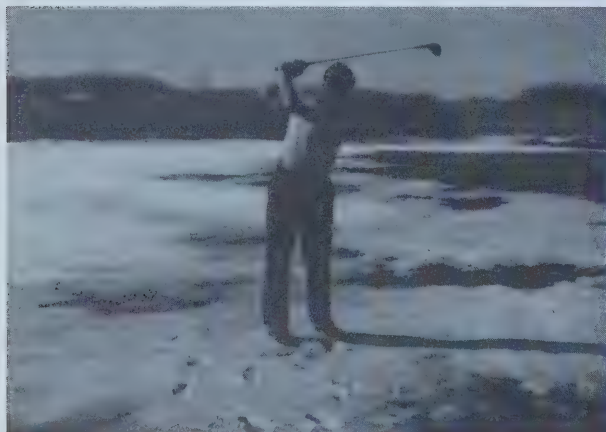
Hockey has played an interesting part of the Irma history. According to the *Irma Times* the first hockey game was played in 1923. At that time it was limited to games with Irma and surrounding districts, such as Roseberry and Passchendale. The first hockey game in Irma was against Lewisville.

In 1932 Irma built their first permanent hockey rink and thereby was the beginning of a great hockey era. That year saw the formation of the Gas Line Hockey League which included teams from Tofield, Ryley, Holden, Viking, Wainwright, and Irma.

The first year Irma won only one game but the year 1933-34 saw them win the league championship. In 1939 the Irma team won a sixteen-team tournament sponsored by the Edmonton Junior Chamber of Commerce.

During the war senior hockey took a back seat as numerous boys left the area. After the war the Gas Line League was revived with a new generation of players such as Ross McFarland, Stu Fenton, Cliff Jones, and Wilf Symington. Often Ron Lovig led the scoring having been known to score ten goals in a game. Other players include Lovigs, Fischers, Priors, Glasgows, Kennedy, Ganie, Prosser, and Taber.

With the construction of a new arena in 1962, we saw the formation of the Irma Aces and they are still leading



Dick McRoberts golfing - April 4, 1976 - Temperature 75 degrees.

the Battle River Hockey League in 1985. Mrs. Vera Larson won a season's ticket for suggesting the name "Irma Aces".

Teams in the B.R.H.L. in 1985 consist of Viking, Daysland, Sedgwick, Coronation, Hardisty, Hughenden, Wainwright, and Irma. Some of the players seen on the score sheet for Irma are: Fischer, Parsons, Tomlinson, Burr, Holt, MacKay, Bacon, Burton, Bray, Ford, Gulbraa, Field, and Jackson. At the helm is coach Rick Gultner, helped by Eric Nissen, Clair Prior, and Allan Parsons. All in all, hockey has been good for Irma and Irma has been good to hockey.

NFL, You're Swell!
My ten-year anniversary
Fell on a Monday night . . .
Thanks for the dinner, Honey,
And God bless you, Football
Strike!



Irma Senior Hockey Team in 1946 or 1947 on Irma's outdoor rink after winning against Bennett, White Constuction, a firm doing building at Wainwright Army Camp. Back Row: Ross McFarland, Cliff Jones, Stu Fenton, Bob Gultner, Ralph Congdon, Francis Lukens. Front Row: Wilf Symington, Albert Glasgow, Bill Inkin, Bob Kirkman, Gus Prosser. The team was wearing old Albert Hockey sweaters.

The Little Country Town

Back in the brush wood country,
 Where the land rolls up and down,
 Amid the snow piled white and deep,
 Lay a little country town.

Unknown to the rest of the world,
 A planet all its own,
 From a lonely railway station,
 To a little town it had grown.

While hockey raged around them,
 They hardly thought of the game;
 Little they knew in the future
 It would bring them honor and fame.

Time brought 'round a New Year
 And a local team sprang up;
 Later to enter the Gas Line League
 To play for that famous cup.

The first year they met with utter
 defeat,
 And only won one game;
 But they entered again the following
 year
 To uphold their village and name.

They played with their hearts and
 souls,
 Nor heeded the pang of fatigue,—
 And so they finished victorious—
 The champs of the Gas Line League.

Next season they lost their title
 To another town along the line,
 But knowing they'd soon retrieve it
 Made the Irma lads feel fine.

But they captured the Dawson trophy
 Before the season was o-er,
 And now they had a bigger cup
 In place of the one before.



Irma Hockey Arena.



First Irma Hockey Rink: Those known include: Sharkey girls, Orril Darling, Cliff Smallwood, Maude Smallwood, Bill Blades, Jin Pond, and Frank McGuire.

GET IN THE GAME

Air yew settin' on the sidelines,
While the other fellers work?
Hev yuh got the reputation
Uv a reg'lar chronic shirk?
Better take yer coat orf instant,
Let yer 'thusiasm flame,
Fer its time yew made a effort
Fer t' git into the game.
Lots o' folks aroun' is waitin'
Jest t' see which way yew turn;
Watchin' fer the curves yer
 throwin'
So thet they them curves kin learn
Yew've bin boastin' how yew'd do
it;
How "Great Wonders" is yer name
Now's yer time t' rise an' prove it;
Come! Git up! Git in the game.
Yew could beat the worl' all
holler?
Well, we'll bite. O' course yuh
could.
But tew us yew've got t' prove it;
Now's yer chance! Come on!
 Make good!
Yew kin never make a home-run,
Git a place in hall o' fame,
'Less yuh peel an' go to battin'.
Quit yer talk! Git in the game!



Edmonton Winter Carnival 1939. Front Row: Arnold Lawson, Harold Lisson, Frank Maquire (Capt.), Bob Smith, Albert Glasgow, Bob Taylor. Back Row: Ray Martin (coach), Les Hughes, Bill Inkin, Lewis Jones, Archie McMinn, Carl Tory, Bob Guiltner, Fred Brimacombe, Jas Hedley (Manager).



These boys were known as the Passchendale Pirates and they played in the Commercial League. This picture was taken after winning the Farmers' Tournament in Wainwright in 1953. Front Row: Keith Steele, Walter Glover, Bob Dunbar, Killian Goodwin, Dave Holt. Middle Row: Don Fischer, Bill King, Hamish Dunbar, Clarke Steele, Bob Fischer, Charlie Allen. Back Row: Sonny Archibald, Les Tindall, and Ron Prior.

When I am right no one remembers. When I am wrong no one forgets.

THE HOCKEY MOTHER

from Irma Times

The hockey mother is a paradox. When junior is sitting on the bench she's hollering for more ice time. But when he's "bushed" she's bawling out the coach for over-playing him.

She'll criticize her boy's coach in front of all and sundry - but let anyone else do so and he immediately becomes the best coach in the league. After all, he chose her boy for his team!

She'll complain to his Dad about the inadequacy of the grocery money, then empty the fridge feeding the hockey team. When properly angered she's been known to spank first and reason later. But - just let some opponent hand out a hard body check and the hockey mother soon shows whose side she's on.

The hockey mother does a lot of singing, laughing, hugging - and screaming at referees and opposing teams. She likes dressing up, but is often seen at the rink in old jeans and sweaters. And she drives junior to the rink at all hours of the day or night.

The hockey mother seldom cries when she is sad, but tears fill her eyes when junior brings home a frilly valentine, or scores the winning goal.



Back Row: Garnet Wahlund, Ken Ford, John Hodue, John Golka, Francis Younker, Bill Robinson, Gene Schreyer, Richard Glasgow, George Younker, Jim Ford, Milt Fahner. Front Row: John Ganie, Les Swelin, Bob Smallwood, Dave Prior, Wayne Gwinn, Robert Ford, Doug Sharkey, Bryan Liddell.



Irma Aces Hockey Team in 1982-83. Back Row: Mel Pomeroy, Clair Prior, Eric Nissen, Leonard Parsons, Gordon Holt, Allan Gulbraa, Raymond Tomlinson, Dale Nilson, Marvin Holt, Gary Philips, Allen Fenton, Bob Foley, Kent Gulbraa, Joey Jones, Garnet MacKay, Rick Guiltner, Allan Parsons. Front Row: Greg Fischer, Brian Burr, Kevin MacKay, Ivan Bacon, Shane Hollar, Jay Fenton, Jimmy Owen, Brent Fischer.



Irma Aces. Rick Guiltner, Eric Nissen, Kevin McKay, Kent Gulbraa, Duane Bray, Bob Foley, Gary Phillips, Allen Gulbraa, Barry Fields, Ray Tomlinson, Marvin Holt, Joey Jones, Brian Burr, Dale Nilson, Mel Pomeroy, Ivan Bacon, Leonard Parsons, Jay Fenton, Joe Holt, Jimmy Owen, Brent Fischer, Garnet McKay, Ken Burton.

THE IRMA HOCKEY TEAM

by Ralph Congdon - Irma Times, 1947

*Dick Yoeman the goalie,
Is the best on the line;
When it comes to the play-offs
Just watch Dickie shine!*

*Next comes Fischer,
The fighting defence;
He looks mighty tough,
But it's all a pretence.*

*Then we have Sharkey,
A man of large frame;
Though quiet and peaceful,
He plays a good game.*

*On the right wing is Lawson,
A very fine chap;
He can go through and score
Without a mishap.*

*And yet we have Mickey,
That go-getting scout;
He works and he sweats,
But he never plays out.*

*Ray Martin, the school teacher,
Is of medium height;
He plays a clean game
But ne'er refuses a fight.*

*Beside him is Goosey,
That long-legged Swede;
He takes bumps and hard falls,
But seems never to heed.*

*For a sub we have Lukens,
With a frame like a door;
Though he was seriously crippled,
He came back for more.*

IRMA MINOR HOCKEY

On February 27, 1965, a meeting was held at the Irma Hotel to form a minor hockey association. Eight interested persons namely: Albert Bacon, Clair Lukens, Scotty Matthew, Harold Wright, John Ganie, Jim Christenson, John Templeton and Pert Prosser were in attendance. Clair Lukens made the motion to call the club Irma Minor Hockey Association.

The first president was Scotty Matthew, while Clair Lukens was secretary-treasurer. The first coaches were John Ganie, Harold Wright and Ron Prior.

Over the years many people have given their time to coach teams. To name some: Claire Prior, Jim Christenson, Charlie Allen, Pert Prosser, Len Liddell, Albert Glasgow, Albert Bacon, Butch Fischer, Jim Barber, Mel Fowell, Garnet Wahlund, Henry Fenton, Doug Sharkey, Hugh Tomlinson, John Newton, Bert Smith, Jerry Mark, Charlie Soucy, Sonny Archibald, Chic Shaw, Erling Nilson, Gordie Fischer, Leonard Parsons, Lawrence Kellar, Ron Copeland, Blaine MacMillan, Walter Littlewood, Jim Owen, Eddie Jackson, Wayne Gwinn, Philip Larson, Alfie Fleming, Mervin MacKay, Greg Fischer, Brian Burr and Cliff Firkus.

In 1971 Eddie Jackson took over the Sec-Treas. post, a position he kept until 1976. At that time Marguerite Burr became secretary-treasurer, a position she still holds (1985). John Newton was president for many years. In 1983 the president was Cliff Firkus, in 1985 Ron Copeland.

Every year a Minor Hockey Banquet is held in the school gym when the parents and hockey players enjoy a roast beef meal.

In 1982-83 season Irma Ringette joined the Minor Hockey Association and proved very successful. Blaine and Bev Copeland were responsible for organizing Ringette in Irma involving girls from grade seven and up. The following season Alan Jamison organized a team for the younger girls.

During the 1982-83 season over one hundred

youngsters enjoyed hockey or ringette in Irma.

For many years the organization has operated the food booth at the arena. Any profits go back into improvements; some of which include a modern kitchen, helping to pay for a time clock, and in 1983-84 new dressing rooms.

Irma Minor Hockey depends entirely on volunteer help and the cooperation of parents. Over the years Minor Hockey has been very successful in Irma.

Tom Thumbs. Back Row: Dallas Barber, Mel Garbe, Shane Dempsey, Orlando Raides, Kenny Larson, Cory Copeland, Alfred Flemming Coach. Front Row: Nancy Fleming, Jordon Paszter, Dean Jones, Dixen Fahner, Jason Anquist, Jason McKee, Kent Ford.



Mites. Back Row: Wayne Gwinn Coach, Donald Lukens, Edward Haun, Darren Prior, Craig Copeland, Dan Larson, Ron Copeland Coach. Front Row: Rodney Oracheski, Lee Larson, Duane White, Chris Nash, Glen Gwinn.



Like Father, Like Son

Our son is 12 years old, and he's

A worry to his dad . . .

So many of his tendencies

Are those his pop once had!



Pee Wee Hockey. Back Row: Dave Prior Coach, Jesse Wasmith, Corrine Prior, Quintin Prior, Robbie Williams, Troy Ronjom, Clay Copeland, Jim Barss Coach. Front Row: Trevor Oracheski, Lenny Larson, Vicki Keller, Jody Fenton, Greg McKay, Trent Barss, Scott Davenport.

Merle King Coach, David Larson, Randy Keller, Doug Larson, David Currie. Front Row: Stacy Larson, Brian King, Leslie Creasy, Gord Fenton.



IRMA BANTAMS PROVINCIAL "C" CHAMPS - 1975

*by Gary Oracheski
Grade Eight*

*The Irma Bantam team was scared
That Marwayne was too strong,
But in two games our Irma team
Proved all their doubts were wrong.*

*The next opponent was Goodfish Lake,
Our fellows looked so small
But in the end they beat them out
Because they gave their all.*

*Then came Fort Saskatchewan,
Who also was defeated,
In one game they found themselves
From the Provincials eliminated.*

*Two games were played with Manning,
One at home and one away,
And we came home the winners
Because of our team play.*

*The Northern Champs, our Irma Team
Now met up with Gleichen;
Their seventy fans were really surprised
When their team got badly beaten.*

*We're proud to have the Provincial Champs
They worked hard for the name,
Team spirit and team effort
Won them every game.*



Midgets. Back Row: John Ganie, Lorne Firkus, (?), Darcy Lemieux, Randy Wigmore, Doug Fischer, Randy Ganie, (?), (?), (?), Mervin McKay. Front Row: (?), Robert Holt, Darren Archibald, (?), Tim Ford, (?).

Give a Little

If you don't like life, it's the way you're livin';
A little less takin', a bit more givin';
A little less hatin', a little more lovin';
A little more helpin', not so much shovin';
A little more smilin', and not so much strife.
And soon you will be in love with life.

RECREATIONAL HOCKEY

Rec hockey has become very popular in the last few years. In 1984-85 season there were five teams playing in Irma. These teams were: North Stars, Brewers, Riggers, Fords and Jets. In Rec hockey slap shots are not allowed, nor is body contact. There is a wide range of players taking part.



Irma Jets. Dave Prior, Cecil Savage, Hugh Tomlinson, Lorne Anquist, Ron Oracheski, (?), (?), Albert Glasgow, Duane Hollar. Front Row: Dennis Fahner, Doug Coffin, John Ganie, Arnold Lightbody, Ross Smithson, Glen Inkster, Ron Prior.

Irma Riggers. Back Row: Graham Lemieux, Roger King, Lee King, Ian Currie, Lorne Smith, Stanley Boomhower, Eddie Willerton. Front Row: Larry King, Ian Dunbar, Glen Lingley, Greg Lingley, Kirk Larson, Marty Hinton, Colin Kumick.



IRMA FIGURE SKATING CLUB

The club was first organized in 1956 as a result of interest in figure skating by youngsters and their mothers. Thirty-six skaters were registered, and each paid four dollars to receive instruction from Mrs. Alicia Triplett of Hardisty. Lorna Saville, also of Hardisty, assisted with the first ice show which was presented in the outdoor rink. Besides the programs by the figure skaters, there were carnival numbers with races, costume prizes, etc. Irma skaters who performed in this show included Betty Rae Locke, Arlene Clumstad, and Sheila Ballentine.

In 1958, the club was unable to get an instructor, so the mothers drove their youngsters to Wainwright for lessons. However, after two years of this chore, the members decided to discontinue the club.

During the winter of 1963-64, Mrs. Michie (whose husband was vice-principal of Irma School) gave skating lessons to a small group of youngsters who were asked to perform at the arena opening in 1964.

In April, 1965, under the direction of Mrs. J. Ballentine, president, and Mrs. F. Clumstad, secretary, the club met to discuss reorganization. It was decided to

use one hundred and fifty dollars from the treasury to buy a big coffee urn for the school, and the remaining funds were to go to a new club if one could be organized within one year.

Reorganization did materialize in the fall of 1965 with Mrs. Barry Holt as president, and Mrs. Carman Granigan of Wainwright as skating teacher. It was decided to join the Alberta Figure Skating Association. The fees were set at three dollars per child, or six dollars per family.

Great interest has since been shown in the sport with as many as one hundred and three skaters registering one winter. To accomodate those who might be interested in advancing in figure skating, the club joined the Canadian Figure Skating Association in 1970. Many skaters have passed the C.F.S.A. tests administered by accredited judges on test days in Irma as well as in neighboring towns, and as far away as Camrose, Westaskiwin, and Edmonton. Some have also taken lessons in Edmonton, Leduc, Lloydminster, North Battleford, and Hinton after the skating season has ended in Irma. The club has turned to these older, advanced skaters to assist the professional instructor with skating lessons. In 1982, the



Fords. George Younker, Phillip Larson, (?), (?), Jim Ford, Jay Holt. Front Row: Harvey Younker, Charlie Lawson, Paul Ford, Ken Ford, (?).

club held a workshop on Precision Skating, and following it, twelve enthusiastic girls, under the instruction of Carrie Lien, decided to try this new adventure. In addition to performing at Irma's ice shows, this team has performed at ice shows in Hardisty (1982), and in Loughheed (1983 with Cindy Butterworth as coach).

The club has presented an ice show every winter except in 1972 when warm weather in March melted the natural ice, and forced the cancellation of the planned show entitled, "Salute to Irma's 60th Anniversary".

Initially, costumes were rented to supplement those made by the mothers of the skaters. However over the years, the club has built up its own costume wardrobe which now fills the club's room at the arena. Sturdy props constructed by the skater's fathers shortly after the club's reorganization provide the back-drops for each show's excellent scenery.

To help cover the cost of operation and to keep fees reasonable, the club has had a yearly ice show queen contest based on ticket sales. For some years, three of the local organizations such as Albert Organization, Irma Chamber of Commerce, Gratton Uniform, Ross

Uniform, and Irma Home and School Association were approached to sponsor a candidate in return for twenty percent of the ticket sales made by the sponsored girls. Eventually the club decided to sponsor three of their skaters.



Figure Skating Club Grand Finale to Carnival 1983.



Sheila Ballentine and Arlene Clumstad in 1955 skating on the outdoor rink.



Figure Skating. Back Row: Melanie White, Chantelle Archibald, Alana Fischer, Edna Fleming, Wendy Erickson. Front Row: Susan Coffin, Robin Guiltner, Ginger Erickson, Terri Barss, Lisa Inkster.

Besides the gifts with the girls received from the sponsoring organizations, a big club trophy was presented to the queen with her name and year engraved on it, as well as a small trophy for her to keep.

Since it was impossible to get candidates for the 1984 ice show queen contest, the club carried on a "Pot of Gold Raffle" under the direction of Mrs. M. Erickson assisted by Mrs. J. Pasztor, Jr., and Mrs. K. Cornett. Tickets were sold on a thousand dollar bill which was won by Mr. E. Haugan the night of the ice show. The skater who sold the most tickets, Danielle Radies, received a reward of one hundred dollars.

Another innovation for the 1983-84 skating season was the introduction of the Can-Skate Program which emphasizes learning to skate more for the pleasure of it than for advancement.

Many dedicated mothers and skaters have spent innumerable hours of hard work to keep this club alive and active. Because of their acceptance of various leadership roles for many years, the following have been out-

standing in their contributions: Mr. J. Ballentine, Mrs. B. Holt, Mrs. M. Oracheski. Mrs. B. Belton, Mrs. B. Smith, Mrs. A. Lien, Mrs. R. Lovig, Mrs. L. Kellar, Mrs. R. Prior, and Mrs. G. Inkster.

The 1983-84 executive includes Mrs. S. Pierce, President, Mrs. R. Guiltner, Vice-President, Mrs. R. Smithson, Secretary, Mrs. Bob Burton, Treasurer, Mrs. R. Lovig, Badge Chairman, and Mrs. Gordon Fischer, Ice Show Chairman. The professional instructor has been Mrs. R. Butterworth (Cindy) of Wainwright. There have been fifty-eight skaters with fees paid according to the following categories: Preschoolers: thirty-five dollars, Intermediates (up to eight badges): forty dollars, Can-Figure Skate Group: fifty-five dollars and Privates: thirty-five dollars for club memberships plus the instructor's fee of four dollars and fifty cents for fifteen minutes instruction which each skater paid on her own. The girls who participated only in Precision Skating paid thirty-five dollars.



Carnival 1984. Back Row: Edna Fleming, Alana Fischer, Shawna Paszter, Wendy Erickson, Shantelle Archibald, Orlando Raides, Mel Garbe, Robin Guiltner, Susan Coffin. Front Row: Ginger Erickson, Melanie White, Terri Barss, Lisa Inkster, Cathy Coffin, Sharina Fischer, Stacy Meakins, Melanie Pomeroy, Carey Ann Guiltner.

Dawn's Gift

To wake in the morning
And hear the birds sing,
See a new day being born,
What a wonderful thing!
If we should be charged
For a treasure, we'd pawn
Everything we possess
For the gift of the dawn.
But it comes to us freely
Without any pay —
The gift just of living
Another new day!



Donald Jones, Stacy Meakins, Orlando Raides, Melanie Pomeroy, Mel Grabe, Sharina Fishcer, Cathy Coffin, Carey Guiltner. Back Row: Shawna Pasztor.



Carnival 1984. Patrica Lemieux, Michelle Stockal, Shawna Smithson, Crystal Prior, Danette Pierce, Candace Lien, Sherri Burton.



Carnival 1984. Back Row: Jackie Prior, Donna Preece, Tammy Smithson, Deanna Prior, Crystal Prior, Kerri Lovig, Silvia Rassok. Front Row: Patrica Lemieux, Dannette Preece, Sherri Burton, Candace Lien, Shawna Smithson.

Time

When as a child I laughed and wept,
Time crept.
When as a youth I dreamed and talked,
Time walked.
When I became a full-grown man,
Time ran.
When older still I daily grew,
Time flew
Soon I shall find in travelling on,
Time gone.



Senior Ringette. Back Row: Dianne Soucy, Tracey Copeland, Rhonda Lovig, Amy Currie, Rhonda Boomhower, Blaine Copeland Coach. Front Row: Tammy Ronjom, Kelly Glasgow, Kerri Larson, Kerri Lovig, Laurie Fleming.

JUNIOR RINGETTE

The Irma Teddy Bears, Junior Ringette Team (ages 8-12) started in 1982 with Al Jamison as coach. The girls did a lot of learning the first season with teams from Mannville, Neilburg and Vegreville. They also enjoyed a Mother-Daughter game, a tournament at Lloydminster, and a match against the Irma Mites.

The girls had an extremely successful 1983-84 season, including tournaments in Lloydminster, Vegreville, and Neilburg.

In 1984, with an expanded team of nineteen players (about half "rookies"), the girls acquired a new set of uniforms thanks to Minor Hockey. They also acquired a new name: Irma Bears, and team jackets. It was an active year, including tournaments at Lloydminster, Vegreville and Red Deer, as well as our own in Irma.

The three years of Ringette have been full of fun and excitement for the girls, especially the dressing room post-mortems and pizzas after the games.

Why God Made Little Girls

God made the world with the towering trees

Majestic mountains and restless seas

Then paused and said, "It needs one more thing —

Someone to laugh and dance and sing —

To walk in the woods and gather flowers —

To commune with nature in quiet hours";

So God made little girls

With laughing eyes and bouncing curls —

With joyful hearts and infectious smiles —

Enchanting ways and feminine wiles —

And when He completed the task He'd begun.

He was pleased and proud of the job He'd done;

For the world, when seen through a little girl's eyes

Greatly resembles Paradise.



Junior Ringette. Brooke Jamison, Amy Currie, Kerri Lovig, Kim Glasgow, Corrine Prior, Stacey Williams, Penny Flemming, Jennifer Fenton, Krista Skori, Terry-Lynn Kirkman, Rhonda Fleming, Dawn Jamison and Lisa Fahner.

On the Bright Side

Laugh a little now and then,

it brightens life a lot;

You can see the brighter side
just as well as not.

Don't go mournfully around,
Gloomy and forlorn;

Try to make your fellow man
Glad that you were born.



Irma basketball team in early 1920's, Irma Edmonds on left.

Viking vs. Wainwright basketball at Irma on July 12th, 1918.





PROGRAM

Of The

UNION PICNIC

TO BE HELD AT

IRMA, ALBERTA

— ON —

Friday, July 21st, '16

Program

- 10 30—Base Ball Match; North Hardisty vs Echo School.
- 12.20—Irma Band meets the train.
- 12.30—Lunch. tables, hot water, and coffee will be provided. Bring a full basket.
- 1.30 p.m.—Base ball Game; Viking vs Irma.

SPECIAL

- (1st and 2nd prize for each event.)
- Boys race under 8.....
- Boys race under 10.....
- Boys race under 15.....
- Boys sack race.....
- Boys three legged race.....
- Biscuit whistling contest.....
- Boys running broad jump.....
- Boys running high jump.....
- Girls race under 8.....
- Girls race under 12.....

Program

- Girls race under 16.....
- Ladies race.....
- Thread and needle race.....
- Married couples race.....
- Wheelbarrow race.....
- Three legged race.....
- 100 yd dash.....
- Putting the shot.....
- Running broad jump.....
- Hop, step, and jump.....
- Standing high jump.....
- Running high jump.....
- Relay race half mile.....
- Half mile race.....
- Tug of war.....
- 6.30—Base Ball—Final

All entries must be made 5 min. before the event.

Dance in the Evening



Rodeo at Buckskin Flats.

Buckskin Flats Stampede North of Irma, June 21st

The Buckskin Flats Stampede that proved such a success last year will be held this year on Wednesday, June 21st, commencing at 10 o'clock in the forenoon. The stampede grounds are located on the south half of section 11-47-9, ten miles due north of Irma and 28 miles due south of Mannville.

The management has gathered together a 100 hundred head of bucking horses and 100 head of bucking cattle for the stampede events which will include riding bucking horses in the saddle, loose rope riding, slick riding, wild horse riding, calf roping, a wild horse and wild steer race. Mount money will be paid on horse and steer riding. First and second prizes will be given to the winners in the bucking bronco riding contest.

Four snappy ball teams will compete in a tournament, besides half mile foot race for men and footraces for children of all ages. A typical clown trick roper will strut his stuff for the amusement of the crowds.

Lunch and refreshments of all kinds will be obtainable on the grounds. Good corrals and a good arena are being prepared for this big stampede, and there will be ample grounds for camping, with lots of good water to drink.

An open air pavilion 40 feet square is under erection where a dance will be held at night, music furnished by Coultman's orchestra.

Admission to grounds, adults 50c; children fifteen years and under free, cars free. Stampede manager, Gordon Ambler; Baseball manager, P. E. Jones. See posters for further particulars. If June 21st is wet and rainy the stampede will be held one week later, on June 28th.



Fishing at Battle River.



A duck hunt in Irma about 1919-20: Ross McFarland and Mr. Middleton.



Jim Jackson with hound dogs.



Cliff Smallwood and Jack McKay with a string of ducks.



Cliff Smallwood with his first goose.

July 5, 1929 - Seven of our young sports left the first of the week for a fishing trip to Cold Lake. The party includes Jack Fletcher, Bill Masson, Bob Smallwood, Billie Barber, George Tripp, Henry Kasten, Billie Milburn. We understand Mr. Milburn took his truck to bring back the fish.



Duke Ott, Jack Bishop and Walter Frickelton after an early morning hunt.

Remember, gun powder and alcohol don't mix. It won't shoot and it tastes awful.



The fisherman Pert Prosser with a "big one".

Hunter to game warden: "Er - yes, it is last year's license ... but I am only shooting at the ones I missed last year!"



One of the floats in the Irma parade pulled by Wes Bacon's team.

Irma Parade in the Anniversary year 1962. The team is owned and driven by John Newton with Grandma Fischer in the front seat. Mary Newton behind with Anita and Bill at the front of the wagon.





Milt Fahner in Irma Parade.



Irma United Church choir, 1980 - Irma Daze Parade. Mrs. Wilson, Lois Jack, Georgina Enger, Alma Enger, Mina Inkin.



Ernie Owen in Irma Parade.

Fair day, August 1980. Trevor Oracheski with Stacey and Rodney driving car won by their father, Ron, 1957.

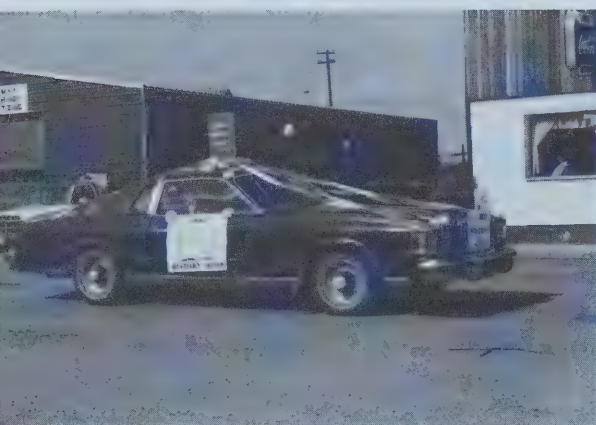




Irma's Centennial Fashion Show in 1967: Phyllis Barton, Pat Burton, Violet Savard, Ethel McFarland, Eunice Gulbraa.



Battle River Women of Uniform Local Number 7201 in Irma Parade.



Best Historical Entry in the Irma Days Parade of 1980. Alan Rafuse (owner), Josie Holt, Stuart Fenton, Jennifer Fenton on pony, Jody Fenton with the flag.



Irma Figure Skating Float, art work done by Janet Inkster.





Irma Chamber of Commerce Float 1985 Parade.



Domestic Processing and Handicrafts, 1984.



Flower classes at the Irma Fair in 1984.



Vegetable display, 1984.



Part of the large display of sheafs.



Afghans, quilt, Handicrafts and Sewing, 1984.



Frank Peterson at the Toronto Fair in 1908.

CHAUTAUQUA

Late in 1916, John M. Erickson travelled to Lethbridge from western U.S.A. for the purpose of booking five Alberta towns in the area for Chautauqua. This accomplished, he returned to Portland, Oregon where he reported to Ellison and White who agreed to the Canadian venture if forty towns were booked. Soon a deal was made and John was off to book thirty-five more centres surrounding Lethbridge in late 1916, and plan for the first Chautauqua circuit in Canada. In the summer of 1917 the big brown tent arrived on our Canadian prairies and in 1920 Chautauqua came to Irma for the first time. The aim of Chautauqua was to bring high class entertainment to the people of small communities at a moderate cost.

In 1924 Chautauqua again came to Irma with the following committees set up: Mr. Bill Masson - chairman; Mr. Love - secretary; Mr. White - chairman of advertising committee; Mr. Hardy - chairman of grounds committee; Representing Albert - Victor Larson and P. Jones; Glenholm - Gulbraa and Steffenson; Orbindale - Barker, Mrs. Elliott, McDowell; Strawberry Plains - Smallwood, Reid and Hardy; Sunny Brae - Fenton, Higginson; Jarrow - Mann; Ross - Lister, Harper; Alma Mater - Mrs. McCartney and R.G. Williamson; Roseberry - Mr. Elliott, Tate; Coal Springs - Guy Jackson; Railway - White Soneff. These people guaranteed the Chautauqua Company a specified amount of money and tickets were sold in advance.

Most Irma people took in these excellent performances and long remembered the enjoyment they brought. As a note of interest - Roy White, the station agent, married one of the Chautauqua singers.

IRMA CHAUTAUQUA MAY 27, 28, 29th 1920

The Chautauqua comes to Irma on the above dates and both from an educational and entertainment point of view it is the duty and to the interest of every resident of the community to give it their support. The program which will be presented is as follows:

DAILY PROGRAM

Season Tickets,
Adults \$2.00
Children \$1.00

Daily Program:
Afternoon at 3
Evening at 8

FIRST DAY

Afternoon -
Opening Exercises and Announcements
Musical Concert

DeWillo Concert Trio
Admission 75¢

Evening -
Prelude
Lecture

De Willo Concert Trio
"Assyrian Life and Customs"
Miss Sumayah Attiye
Admission \$1.00

SECOND DAY

Afternoon -
Entertainment
Lecture

LeBaron Duo
"Looking Through Life's Telescope"
Wm. G. Lavelle

Admission 75¢

Evening -
Prelude
Lecture

LeBaron Duo
"The New Canadianism"
Prof. W.F. Osborne

Admission \$1.00

THIRD DAY

Afternoon -
Entertainment
Lecture

Hampton Court Singers
"The Home Town"
Dr. E.J. Powell

Admission 75¢

Evening -

Grand Closing and Entertainment by the

Hampton Court Singers

Admission \$1.00

Note - Provincial Tax Extra. Afternoon of the opening day Season Tickets for Adults to \$2.50. Buy your tickets from the committee early.

Season tickets entitling the holder to admittance to all six performances cost \$2.00 adults and \$1.00 children. The cost of admittance if paid at the door is \$5.25 so that it will be seen it is a distinct saving to purchase a season ticket. These are for sale in practically all of the business places in Irma and are sold also by a representative in each district. The Committee composed of the guarantors on the contract, responsible for bringing the Chautauqua here, look to the residents of the district to assist them in eliminating their liability and this can only be done by purchasing season tickets before May 27th.

Every parent in the district should make it his or her duty to see that the children take advantage of this unique educational opportunity.

Three days previous to the opening of the regular Chautauqua there is a special children's instructional program, under the direction of a lady superintendent from the Chautauqua company.



Irma Ladies in play.

ORCHESTRAS

The first mentioned orchestra was that of Hendersons in 1909 when a violin or two was considered an orchestra.

Coultmans Orchestra began in 1919 when Stan, and Gar Coultman and Erle Prior played at some of the surrounding schoolhouses. The payment was from one dollar to a pint of moonshine. Drums, trumpet, saxophone or violin were the main instruments.

Mr. Olaf Lovig played the banjo to help at dances. Around 1927 Moon's Merry Makers entertained for a few years and after it disbanded started up at a later date as Coultmans. In the thirties they played for three dollars apiece.

Jimmy Kennedy, Ernie Rae and Evaline Pyle started a dance orchestra in 1924 and continued to the fifties. In 1922 Martin Enger and Julius Stougaard travelled many miles with violin and banjo. They were later joined by Ole Enger on the trumpet but they dissolved in 1929 and started again during the thirties with Julius on saxophone, Mrs. M. Enger on piano, and Allan Taylor on saxophone.

The Sanders family had a group with Edwin on violin; Wilfred and Tom Sanders played banjos as did Lily at times. After Coultman's orchestra disbanded, Wes and Betty Parsons, Marney Barss, Gar Coultman and Bob Weaver started the Serenaders. The above played for several years. The Sparkletones with Doreen Bell as leader played for many years and are still in operation.

The first "Rock Band" called the "Phantoms" consisted of Robert Jones, Dennis Meier, Gordon Pyle and Francis Withall in 1959. All were around sixteen years of age. After the band broke up Robbie continued playing, later under the name of "The Canadian Race" with varied personnel.

Curtis Archibald started up the band "Black Midnight" with Bradley McKee, Curtis Littlewood, Greg Lingley, Randy Newton with Anita Newton as singer. It was later changed to "Heritage" but is no longer in operation.



Carl Soneff, Shirley Thomson, Jean Elford, and Jack Fletcher in 1945.

IRMA BANDS

The first band to play in the Irma district was the Coal Springs Band with Mr. Olaf Larson as leader. Band practices alternated between Coal Springs and Irma and sometimes the musicians walked many miles to practise. This band played for sports days, concerts and in the Edmonton parade.

In 1937 a flute and drum band under the leadership of Tommy Averil was called the Orangeman's Band. It played at sports days and at Wainwright for the King and Queen. This band dissolved after W.W. 2 started.

Mr. Jerry Hurst organized a senior band with twenty-five members in 1947. Later Mrs. Hurst had a junior band with as many as fifty-two members at one time.

The Irma High School band was started by Mrs. Aletha Glasgow in the early sixties. With few instruments and no music room in the school, Aletha supplied most of the instruments and used her garage to practise in. The year 1970-71 saw the largest Irma school band with seventy members.

Since Aletha's death the school band has carried on, and the community enjoys band concerts, the marching band in parades, and at the Armistice Services. Mr. Dan Nash was school band leader for many years until Mr. Sheldon Frizzell took over in 1984.

Summer, 1952 - Hobo Teas are fashionable for W.A. members and their friends. One member gathers up members or friends and in whatever attire they have on they descend on another member who becomes the impromptu hostess. Each one contributes twenty-five cents to church funds. One day Mesdames Hurst, Hagar, Hutchinson, R.D. Allen, M. Knudson, Rohrer and Guiltner selected the worst old overalls, hats etc. and thus attired strolled downtown and descended on the peaceful abode of Mrs. A.A. Fischer demanding tea. Mrs. Fischer finally obliged and while the fun was at its highest a car drove up - you guessed it - company from Vancouver for Mrs. Fischer.



Moon Merrimakers orchestra, started in 1926-27: Gar Coultman, Bert Elford, Zora Moon (Henderson), Bill MacIntosh, and Stanton Coultman.



The Coal Springs Band, taken about 1918. Back Row: Billy Newell, Ray Fuder, Arnold Christenson, Alfred Larson, Martin Knudson, Slim (Warren) Peterson, and Elmer Erickson. Front Row: Albert Hughes, Howard Peterson, Albert Knudson, and Chris Knudson.

THE CANADIAN RACE

During the early 1970's, Robbie Jones was instrumental in organizing a dance band, namely The Canadian Race. The band which evolved consisted of: Shane Allred, Darcy Bell, Janice Fuder, and Rob Jones.

As time went on, members of the band changed. Jim Lewis replaced Darcy Bell, and Wendy Burr replaced Janice Fuder. Francis Withall of Edmonton also joined the group. They covered an area from Macklin, Saskatchewan to Edmonton to Castor to Consort, playing mostly for wedding and graduation dances.

Due to work and college commitments, The Canadian Race disbanded in May, 1977. This concluded an era of musical enjoyment for the five members of this dance band.



The Canadian Race dance band joined together with Bob Williams to play for Mike and Esther Mackowosky's Twenty-Fifth anniversary dance at Rodino Hall in November, 1983. Members of the band are: Shane Allred, Jim Lewis, Bob Williams, Rod Jones, and Wendy (Burr) Holt.





Ford children - George, Frank, Annie and Doris - making snow men.



Christmas Day in 1963, Anita, Bill and Randy Newton are having a sleigh ride, thanks to Uncle Roger Dootson.



Buster Lingley's farm, 1955. Terry Meakins, Vergil Micheal, Jim Knudson, Jim Lingley, Buster Lingley, Carl Linbeck, Bill Lingley and Bill Matthews.



Beckett children country skating, 1950.



Ruby Prior teaching swimming at Taylor's pool.



Sonny Archibald and Tuffy Larson boxing.



Boys up a Camp Lake. Some of the boys attending were Phil and Barry Holt, Donald Ramsay, Ronnie Currie, Lloyd Johnson, Robin Johnson, David Barss, and Art Hays.



Uncle Bill and Roy Granger, Mae and Lloyd Place.



Wedding Anniversary Picnic held at King's Park, Fabyan for J. Kennedy, C. Archibald, W. Dootson families. These families gathered annually for many years as Jim and Mary, Charlie and Grace, and Bill and Adelaide were all married in July in different years. Standing on Bank: Jimmy Kennedy, Bill Dootson and Charlie Archibald. In the Water Back Row: Harold Dootson, Jack Kennedy, Sonny Archibald, Colleen Archibald, Gary Archibald, Lorna Archibald, Marney Kennedy.



Picnic at Ed and Edith Sanders. Mr. and Mrs. H. Barton and family, Mr. and Mrs. Wes Bacon, Mr. and Mrs. T. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. Wilf Sanders, Mrs. Les Elliott and Leona, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dootson and family, Mrs. J. McCartney, Ed and Edith Sanders and girls, Ed and Helen Elliott, a few unknown, 1943.



Beckett sisters on barrels.

A vacation consists of 2 weeks that are 2 short, after which you are 2 tired 2 work and 2 broke not 2.

The way we figure it the difficult age is when we're too old to work and too poor to quit.



Summer picnic.



Merry Makers at their picnic about 1932.



Boys, Lindbergs and Grangers at Blackburn Lake.

THE MOUNTAINEERS SERENADE A REVISED CLASSIC

(With the Usual to Stephen Foster)
by Albert Charles Mathes

*O the moonshine's bright in my old Kentucky home
Tis midnight, my Paw's feeling gay,
And my old Uncle Bill is a-layin' by the still,
In my old Kentucky home far away.*

*Chorus (to be sung with much feeling)
Weep no more my lady,
O, weep no more I pray.
But just taste this brew that my Pappy made for you.
In my old Kentucky home far away.*

*2nd
O my paw's long gun is a-leanin' on the wall,
Its barrel is shinin' and bright;
If the sheriff should try for to sneak upon the sly
To my old Kentucky home
GOOD NIGHT.*

*Chorus (with even greater expression)
Weep no more my Lady
O, Weep no more I pray
For the stuff I bring, it will make you want to sing
To my old Kentucky home far away.*



Mr. Gwinn enjoying a game of checkers with his son, Art while grandson, Wayne looks on in August of 1957.



Buffalo roundup about 1928. Cliff and Max Saville among other riders.



Winnie Taylor (Alexander) feeding Maude an elk at Wainwright Buffalo Park.



Savard Family - an outing in the family car in Buffalo Park, Wainwright. It was a thrilling or frightening experience for our visitors driving among a herd of buffalo.



Bill Patterson and Earl Goodale won fifty dollars horse racing from McLeans farm to the Sports in Wainwright. They slept in different barns along the way.



Martin Enger on homemade stilts in 1916.



Irma picnic at Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C. probably 1945. Some of those attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Ray Shotts and Doris, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Moulton, Mr. and Mrs. Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Carrington, Mr. and Mrs. George Parsons, and Wes, Mr. and Mrs. Mont New, Mr. and Mrs. Don Robertson, Frank Ford, Sr., Glovers.



Marney Patterson and Earl Goodale.



Archibald and Larson girls entertaining themselves.



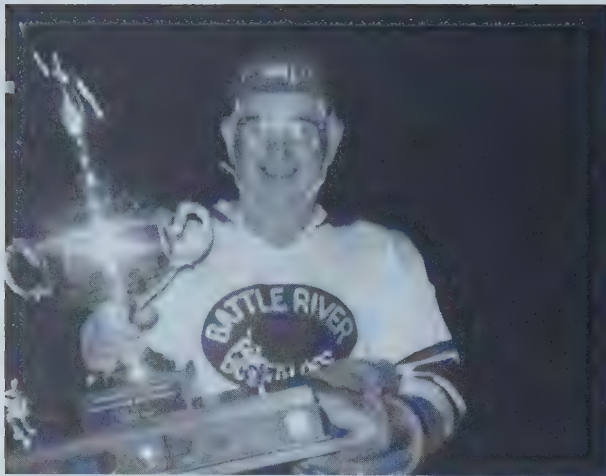
Grace Lealand and Viola Breckenridge at the You-tell-Em Rodeo.



Lottie, Bruce and Everett Greenwood walking on stilts.



Joe and Mike Oracheski and Dorothy Whidden.



Albert Glasgow holding the cup won in Zurich, Switzerland by the 1977 Oldtimers' Hockey Team.



Neil Prior eating lobster in Nova Scotia in 1983.

HOCKEY MOTHER

The hockey mother is a paradox. When junior is sitting on the bench she's hollering for more ice time. But when he's "bushed" she's bawling out the coach for over-playing him.

She'll criticize her boy's coach in front of all and sundry — but let anyone else do so and he immediately becomes the best coach in the league. After all, he chose her boy for his team!

She'll complain to Dad about the inadequacy of the grocery money, then empty the fridge feeding the hockey team. When properly angered she's been known to spank first and reason later. But — just let some opponent hand out a hard body check and the hockey mother soon shows who's side she's on.

The hockey mother does a lot of singing, laughing, hugging — and screaming at referees and opposing teams. She likes dressing up, but is often seen at the rink in old jeans and sweaters. And she drives junior to the rink at all hours of the day or night.

The hockey mother seldom cries when she is sad, but tears fill her eyes when junior brings home a frilly valentine, or scores the winning goal.

Gas Saver

It's sad that seldom do I see
A traffic light that's green for me —
It seems it's always shining red.
And I must stop — not go ahead.
It would save gas if I could coach them
To change to green as I approach them!



Ralph Mark and Emma Johnson dressed for masquerade.

IT CAN'T BE DONE

The man who misses all the fun
Is he who says, "It can't be done."
In solemn pride he stands aloof
And greets each venture with reproof.
Had he the power he'd efface
The history of the human race;
We'd have no radio, bus or cars,
No streets lit by electric stars;
No telegraph nor telephone,
We'd linger in the age of stone.
The world would sleep if things were run
By men who say, "It can't be done."

CHAPTER 6

ORGANIZATIONS





AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

A meeting was called on May 29, 1909 at Irma to organize an Agricultural Society. Fifty-four members paid their dues.

The following officers were elected: President - Mr. J.G. Clarke; First Vice President - Mr. O.B. Sproule; Second Vice President - Mr. Tomlinson; Secretary-Treasurer - Charles Swailes. Directors consisted of: G.A. Purvis J.H. Elliott, J.G. Clarke, Armand Liddle, A. Johnson, O.B. Sproule, W.H. Fread, J.L. Roderick, W.B. Steele, John Mildon, C. Swailes, A.E. Ripley and W.T. Barber.

It was voted to hold an Agricultural Fair on October 7, 1909. Mr. Elliott and Mr. Barber gave interesting and profitable talks on fall wheat raising and the adaptability to our soil. The matter of elevators and grain marketing was discussed by J.H. Armstrong, C.W. Mildon and others.

A committee was chosen to make prize lists and rules governing the fair. J.H. Elliott, R.M. Harper, W.T. Barber, H.S. Armstrong and George O'Leary formed the committee. The secretary read a communication from the Department of Agriculture regarding a Government Pork Packing Plant and purchasing purebred cattle.

This society was active for many years and was still sponsoring school fairs in the thirties. It was later disbanded but the date is unknown.

On February 26, 1973 a public meeting was held in the Legion Hall, its purpose being the formation of an Agricultural Society. The meeting chaired by Ron Thurston and with Ross McFarland as secretary, proceeded with a motion made by Mary Newton, seconded by Stuart Fenton to form a new Agricultural Society.

After a further meeting May 2, 1973 a list of eighty-four people signed a supporting formation of the Society. In due course formal application for a Charter was sent to us and we formed our first executive, as follows: President, Blaine Copeland; First Vice President, Ron Thurston; Second Vice President, John Newton; and Secretary, Mary Newton. Directors were: Mary Newton, Charlie Archibald, Alex Smallwood, Hugh Tomlinson, Ruby Prior, Len Skori, Hazel Oracheski, Doris Fenton, John Gainie, Jean Smith, Harry Long, Erling Nilson, Torleif Larson, Bert Smith, and Clarence Barber.

The first project to be undertaken was an Agricultural fair; committees were set up to work on various events. A membership fee of one dollar was charged exhibitors to help with costs. The first fair was held in conjunction with the Annual Sports day in 1973.

The Agricultural Society felt that, with the funding made available for capital projects, it would undertake the installation of artificial ice in the Irma arena. This was a massive undertaking, both in planning and carrying out the project. Community volunteer help was a major reason the project became a reality in 1975. Since then the Society has helped each year with the Sports Day and Beer Gardens. They constructed a livestock shed on the fairgrounds and two livestock rings for showing horses and cattle. They have further improved the arena with plexiglass and plastic boards and heaters.

The Society continues to assist the Chamber of Commerce by contributing towards chairs and tables for social events at the arena, construction of a shed for storing of these items. They have also helped purchase Christmas lights for Irma and more recently helped with the construction of the playground at the school. The arena is currently being operated by the Agricultural Society. Other community involvement includes helping the Recreation Board with improving the ball diamonds and assisting in the levelling and the landfilling on the fairgrounds. The Society made a considerable donation of funds to assist in the construction of the new curling rink.

The annual fair has continued to grow each year with well over one thousand exhibits ranging from flowers, baking, handicraft to horse entries. As with most small town organizations, the Agricultural Society has a small dedicated core of interested people keeping it going. It is interesting to note that from the Society minutes in 1909 the names of Barber, Tomlinson and Elliott stand out and that their descendants are still involved and interested in the Society today. It is also interesting to note that women are very much involved now, but in 1916 the minutes read that the men were revising the prize list for the ladies exhibits and making all the decisions.

The Agricultural Society is open to all in the community and continues to welcome new members and new ideas.



Stacking bundles with big forks.

BATTLE RIVER WOMEN OF UNIFORM

In 1926 at the home of Mrs. R. Allen a United Farm Women of Alberta was formed for the Avonglen and Passchendale districts and adopted the name Avondale. The first president was Mrs. William Connelly with Mrs. R. Allen as secretary-treasurer. Twenty-seven members joined and worked hard making quilts, putting on pie or box socials and picnics in the summer. One of their first ventures was the compiling of a cook book which was printed in 1928. Avondale sponsored the first bridal shower held in the district for Nellie Thompson and Tom Slipper, which was held in Avonglen school.

Later the ladies from the southeast part of the district formed the Sew and So Club while the former group under the leadership of Mrs. Allen carried on.

In 1962 the Farm Women's Union of Alberta came into being and the ladies of the Avondale Club and some from the Sew and So Club joined. The president was Violet Savard, and Marjorie Haun was secretary. The name was changed to the Battle River Women of Uniform in 1972 and remains that today.

In 1971 another cook book was compiled with members submitting recipes. These books are on sale today.

The creed that was adopted in 1926 has been changed over the years to be more suitable. The Women of Uniform have raised funds for sponsoring boys and girls to Gold Eye Camp, Irene Parlby Fund, and for other national and local groups. To do this they serve lunch at auction sales, hold Hobo Teas, bake sales or bakeless sales, and recently, White Elephant Sales.

For years they held Christmas concerts which were the highlight of the year.

The locals meet each spring in Irma, Hardisty, Wainwright or Edgerton for conferences, each taking its turn. Handicraft is judged at these meets.

In the fall a Uniform Convention is held in Edmonton for both men and women delegates. Directors from this area to sit on the board have been Ruby Prior, Violet Savard and Mary Newton who holds that position today.

The Battle River Women of Uniform sponsor a float in the Irma Days Parade, and it was this group of farm ladies who had the desire to publish a history book of the Irma district.



Women of Uniform at a Christmas Party in 1978. Back Row: Ruby Taylor, Betty Pierce, Brenda Temple, Dorothy Benoit, Christine Fucsko, Frances Prosser, Mary Newton. Middle Row: Mary Dempsey, Myrtle Wyand, Mary Meyer, Isabel Fenton, Elizabeth Prior. Front Row: Hazel Oracheski, Rita Pare, Joan Ford, and Doris Wakefield.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The businessmen of Irma met at Fletcher's store on April of 1936 and, as a result, the Board of Trade was incorporated. The first executive consisted of Mr. Ross McFarland, Sr. - president; Mr. J. Fletcher - vice-president; E.W. Carter - secretary-treasurer; and P.E. Jones, A.H. Locke, A.E. Foxwell and Thomas Marsden as directors. The membership fee was set at one dollar, with twenty-two members joining at the meeting. Their first major concern was keeping the Bank of Montreal open. In 1938 they began searching for a prospective person to build and manage a hotel and to see if there was a possibility of a cheese factory. Their first Sports Day was held on June 11, 1941, and from this they were able to donate four hundred and fifty-two dollars to the Red Cross. After the war they began a serious attempt to have a hospital built here, but after working for two and a half years they gave up. They spent four years communicating with Wainwright Gas Company (Northwestern Utilities) before natural gas was installed. A plebiscite for a beer license was also arranged. The first annual Sports Day, sponsored by the Board of Trade was held on August 3, 1949 and has been continued. It is now a joint venture with the Irma Agricultural Society. An Arena Fund was



Battle River W.I. at A. Dootson's. Back Row: Mary Crabb and Edna, Jean Steele, Marion Sanders, Mona Patterson, (?), Florence Barton, Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Georgina Enger, Mrs. T. Sanders, Violet Savard and Eddie, Joy King and Norman, Mrs. Stougaard. Front Row: Mary Pasha, Myrtle Fenton, Edith Sanders, Mary Dempsey, Adelaide Dootson, Pat King. Front Row Children: Ron Dempsey, Joyce and Norma Dootson.

first started in 1950 and in the early fifties they sponsored the Irma Junior Hockey team. Over the years they have helped out the 4-H Calf Club, the Delusion Lake Project, sponsored the Christmas Promotion Day and the Christmas light-up campaign for homes and businesses in the district. In conjunction with the Irma Agricultural Society they have purchased the Christmas lights for most of the streets in Irma - of which we are most proud. Several years ago the name was changed to Chamber of Commerce but their interests did not change. The present executive are: Ron Dempsey - president; Margaret Cook - secretary; Gayle Soucy - treasurer.

FIRST IRMA BROWNIE PACK

The First Irma Brownie Pack was formed in October of 1968 under the leadership of Marion Savage (Brown Owl), Vera McBurney (Tawny Owl) and Ethel McFarland (Snowy Owl). The aim of the Brownie program is to assist girls from ages six to ten years in character development by encouraging them to be responsible citizens, by introducing them to adventure in the out-of-doors, by training them in skills which will help them to be good homeworkers, and by helping them to experience the joy of giving service to others.



Three new Brownies are enrolled on December 8, 1983: Ginger Erickson, Roxy Larson, Christie Pedersen.

What does P.T.A. stand for? "Mom talks about it, I think it means poor tired adults."

In 1969 Shirley Lovig took over as leader with helpers Marion Savage (1969-1975) and Carole Banks (1969-1970). Shirley remained as leader until 1979 and was assisted also by Colette Meyer (1970-71), Carole Banks (1971-73), Heather Horinek (1973-75), Clara Adamson and Darlene Wigmore (Lone Guide) in 1975 and later by Linda Minchau and Stella Glasgow who handled craft days. The nurses who volunteered their services for Brownie camps over the years were Joy Patterson and Dorothy Eccles. Shirley Lovig and Marion Savage both earned their 'Pack Holiday Licences', enabling them to hold Brownie Camps.



First Irma Brownie Pack at Camp in Vermilion Park in June, 1983. Standing: Dawn Jamison, Leanne Meakins, Melody Garbe, Dorothy Boomhower, Sharon Crawford, Wendy Erickson, and Lisa Fahner. Sitting: Teri Barss, Stacy Meakins, Tammie Larson, Cori Kumick, and Rene Kirkman.

The First Irma Brownie Pack was first sponsored by the local Catholic Women's League, but they became inactive after a few years and sponsorship was taken over by the local Ladies' Orange Benevolent Association.

In October of 1979, Joanne Leskosky became the new leader (Brown Owl) with the assistance of Jean Mitton (Tawny Owl), Ruth Jamison, and Eva Ho. For the 1980/81 year a leader from Wainwright, Lynn Brausen, was brought in. Her assistants were Joanne Leskosky (Tawny Owl) and Jean Mitton (Snowy Owl). During this time, 1979-1981, the Pack published a cook book, attended Camp at Hardisty Lake with the second Wainwright Brownie Pack, and travelled to Edgerton for Brownie Travel Camp.

Lucille Meakins became Brownie leader in October of 1981 and remained as Brown Owl until 1984. She was aided by Hazel Larson (Tawny Owl) and Ruth Jamison (Snowy Owl). During the period from 1981 to 1984 the Pack made a trip to Edmonton to see the Ice Capades; attended camp at Vermilion Park with the First Wain-

wright Brownie Pack; held an annual spring 'Brownie Tea' along with the annual Cookie Day to raise funds; held an annual "Achievement Day" at which awards and badges were presented; learned to snowshoe with the help of Al Jamison. Other activities included hikes, picnics, Remembrance Day Parades, service projects, Thinking Day church services, and a bowling and pizza outing.

When the Brownies begin their new year in October of 1984, Hazel Larson will be the new Brown Owl.

Since its formation in 1968 to the present time, a total of ninety-four girls have participated in the activities of the First Irma Brownie Pack: Sylvia Strojek, Kathy Belton, Melda Guy, Brenda and Rita Lovig, Darlene Heigh, Rita Savage, Darlene Burns, Faye Nissen, Diane Meyer, Elaine Majcher, Cindy Smith, Delilah and Dolly Reeves, Lori and Lana Prior, Irene and Linda Tomlinson, Sherri and Tracy Fischer, Gladys and Wanda Ganie, Wendy Lovig, Debbie Majcher, Leigha, Leila, Kelly and Kimberly Glasgow, Kirby Prior, Karen Patterson, Michelle Wahlund, Dianna Soucy, Lori Adamson, Candace Kumick, Robin, Ronaye, and Erin Lepage, Lori and Diane Kuwica, Tracy Horinek, Rhonda Boomhower, Teresa Fowell, Roberta, Pamela, and Beverly Poulton, Kathy Oracheski, Tracy and Kim Eccles, Shelley and Kari Jones, Roseanne and Linda Teeter, Barbara and Joan Bradey, Tracy Leskosky, Tracy and Deanna Minchau, Corinne and Kristal Prior, Nicole Mitton, Alena Ho, Patricia Lemieux, Terry-Lynn and Rene Kirkman, Brooke and Dawn Jamison, Lisa Fahner, Alana Fischer, Tanya Ford, Jennifer Ford, Jodi Godwin, Kathy Wasmuth, Leanne Meakins, Cori Kumick, Shawna Smithson, Darlene Lightbody, Dorothy Boomhower, Stacy Meakins, Sharon Crawford, Teri Barss, Melody Garbe, Tammie Larson, Wendy and Ginger Erickson, Christie Pederson, Tarilynn Bartzis, Roxy Larson and Margaret Gertsma.

FIRST IRMA GUIDE COMPANY

The First Irma Guide Company was formed in October of 1968. The Guiders at that time were Captain Verla Belton and Lieutenant Elsie Wright. The girls in the Guide Company learned many new skills and earned a number of badges by fulfilling the requirements of each test in the challenging program.

Summer camps were held each year as well as a variety of hikes on which the girls use and develop outdoor skills they have learned. The Company also made annual contributions to the World Friendship Fund. The girls enjoyed such activities as hayrides, skating parties, Christmas parties and travelling suppers.

In 1972, leadership was taken over by Wendy Nutt with assistance from Pat Fuder (1972-73) and Linda Haugan (1972) who later became the Guide Captain in 1973. Linda, with the help of Margaret Cook (1973-74) and Arlene Drader (1974), was leader until 1976, at which time the First Irma Guide Company was disbanded because a new guide leader could not be found.

During its short life a total of eighteen girls participated in the activities of the First Irma Guide Company: Sandra Wright, Joan Thurston, Laurie McFarland, Deborah Bacon, Rene Drewicki, Heather Guy, Patricia Hill, Vera Bacon, Melda Guy, Brenda Lovig, Rita Lovig, Faye Nissen, Margaret Johnson, Kathy Belton, Darlene Burns, Debra Olson, Sylvia Strojek, and, Rita Savage.

GOOD OLD DAYS

*Think about the good old days
When you and I were girls.
Remember those old iron tongs
We used for making curls?*

*When boy friends drove quaint touring cars
In air-conditioned style,
And telephones were equipped with cranks
In place of modern dial.*

*Remember how Mom scrubbed the clothes
And boiled till they were white,
Then filled the lamps with kerosene
For the coming of the night.*

*Dad fed the fire great poplar logs
To chase the frost away,
He worried not about income tax
As he got out the old bobsleigh.*

*Oh yes, those were the good old days
We sigh for them in vain,
But folks we'd need our heads examined
If we'd wish them back again.*



Brownies take part in the "Outdoors Unlittered" Pitch-In Campaign in May, 1984.

GRATTON LODGE NO. 144 A.F. AND A.M. (MASONS)

In the spring of 1925 a number of Brother Masons who lived in and around Irma (some belonged to Victory Lodge in Jarrow) asked the Grand Lodge of Alberta for a dispensation to form a Masonic Lodge in Irma. After the necessary paper work, permission was granted on May 15, 1925 and in June 1926 the Irma Lodge received its charter and Gratton Lodge No. 144 came into being.

The lodge started with sixteen members, the first master being Thomas Derman. The first meetings were held in the United Church and later upstairs in the Edmonds Hotel. When Hedley's Block was built, provision was made for a lodge hall behind the post office. This hall served all lodges for years. In 1953 the post office required more space, so the lodge then held its meetings in the public school. After the Legion Hall was expanded, lodge meetings were held there and it is still their meeting place.

Over the years the Gratton Lodge has donated to several funds and charities.



Clair, Ron, Ted, Erle and Babe Prior - all members of the Masons.



Masonic Lodge members. Left to Right: Harry Meakins, Jim Pond, Bob Dempsey, Bill Masson, Frank Weise, Pryce Jones.



Irma Masonic Lodge: Ken Cornett, Garry Archibald, Sonny Archibald, Ron Dempsey, John Newton, Wes Parsons, Jim Craig, Bob Dempsey, Richard Glasgow. Front: Jim Pond, Eddie Jackson, Charlie Soucy, Ralph Mark, Clifton White, Mel Pomeroy, Keith Currie.

IRMA REBEKAH LODGE

The Rebekah Lodge, affiliate of the Oddfellows, operated for a few years. The lodge disbanded in the early thirties because of hard times. Mrs. P.J. Hardy was the first Grand Noble. Other members were Miss Alice Flewelling, Mrs. C. McLean, Mrs. F. Hill, and Mrs. J. Tate.

*An oldster, wise in the ways of the world, gives this counsel for living to a ripe old age:
Worry less, play more. Ride less, walk more.
Frown less, smile more. Eat less, chew more.
Waste less, save more. Preach less, do more.*

GRATTON UNIFORM

The old minute books for this organization are lost and Uniform Central Office has records only as far back as 1958. Originally there were five uniform locals - Battle River, Gratton, Roseberry, Ross, and Triangle. By 1967 only Gratton and Roseberry were active.

In the sixties these locals held joint picnics on Farmers' Day. A Farmers' Bonspiel was the highlight of the winter.

Gratton members listed as secretaries since 1958 are: E. Jackson, T. Hill, E. Nilson, H. Tomlinson, and Mrs. T. Hill. Presidents were H. Tomlinson, R. Erickson, E. Nilson and O. Raasok.

At one time all area farmers belonged to the Irma Agricultural Society which sponsored Agricultural Fairs.

Gratton Uniform is inactive today.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS NO. 56

Irma Lodge No. 56 was instituted in 1910 with forty members and was one of the first organizations in the Irma district. Two of the earliest members were Fred Hill and Julius Stougaard.

The lodge took an active part in community affairs. Membership declined during the late thirties so that the Lodge Charter was surrendered to the Grand Lodge of Alberta in 1940. Some of the membership transferred to the Wainwright Lodge.

THE WORLD IS MINE

Today, upon a bus I saw a girl with golden hair; she seemed so gay I envied her, and wished that I were half so fair;

I watched her as she rose to leave and saw her hobble down the isle. She had one leg and wore a crutch, but as she passed - a smile.

Oh God forgive me when I whine;

I have two legs - the world is mine.

Later on I bought some sweets. The boy who sold them had such a charm. I thought I'd stop and talk awhile. If I were late 'twould do no harm.

And as we talked he said "Thank you sir, you've really been so kind. Its nice to talk to folks like you, because you see, I'm blind."

Oh God forgive me when I whine;

I have two eyes - the world is mine.

Later, walking down the street, I met a boy with eyes so blue. But he stood and watched the others play; it seemed he knew not what to do.

I paused and said "Why don't you join the others, dear?" But he looked straight ahead without a word, and then I knew he couldn't hear.

Oh God forgive me when I whine;

I have two ears - the world is mine.

Two legs to take me where I go, two eyes to see the sunsets' glow, two ears to hear all I should know.

Oh God forgive me when I whine;

I'm blest indeed, the world is mine.



Lodge picture. I.D.O.F.

IRMA 4-H BEEF CLUB

In compiling a history of the Irma 4-H Beef Club for the Irma History Book it will be necessary to actually only include the highlights for the 33-34 years that it has been in operation. We have used the History written by Doris Fenton for the years 1947-1967, in honor of Centennial year. Most of the other information comes from the scrap books compiled that same year, 1967, by Lorraine Gulbraa, Eva Thurston and Aletha Thurston. In latter years our information has been hard to come by.

HISTORY OF THE IRMA 4-H BEEF CLUB 1947-1967

by Mrs. Stuart Fenton

The first 4-H Beef Club in this area was organized in Wainwright in the fall of 1946. Members of the senior committee were Stuart Fenton, Gib Creech, P. Haywood, P. Smale, F. Ford, Ed Plaxton. They were assisted by District Agriculturist, Stuart Robblee. The first achievement day was held in the old outdoor skating rink at Wainwright (behind the present McLeod Hardware building) on July 3, 1947. The club had twenty-five members, among them Hugh Tomlinson, Foster Barton of Irma. Irma businessmen were generous contributors to the prize money. The champion calf shown by Raymond Patterson, brought 34 cents a pound from Mr. Phil May Sr. This beef was barbequed at Clear Lake by Stuart Fenton, Gib Creech, and Ed Plaxton, and served free to all those present. It was the first pit barbeque to be held in the district.

So much interest was shown in the Wainwright achievement day that the next year a 4-H Beef Club was organized in Irma with Stuart Fenton as leader. The club operated continuously for nine years, was inactive for three seasons and reorganized under the leadership of Eddie Jackson. After two years Bert Smith took over for a year to be succeeded by Dick Tullson who has continued until this, Canada's centennial year.

The Irma Club has always been well-supported by the

community and has received generous contributions in money, prizes and trophies. At one time it had the largest bank account of any 4-H club in the province. Although it has never been prominent with thematic displays in public speaking contests or in judging competitions, I believe it has had a definite influence in the livestock industry of the Irma district. Perhaps the meetings were not conducted according to the best rules of parliamentary procedure or the year's activities did not have all the scope and variety that might be desired or the animals shown were not always of the best quality, still, discussions were held, comparisons made and thought stimulated. Speaking as a parent, I feel that though the 4-H members may not have learned as much as they should, the parents and leaders learned a great deal.

A fitting climax this centennial year was the showing of the Irma 4-H champion at a special 4-H event held at Edmonton in competition with champions from three provinces before a judge of national reputation. Marianne Raasok's home-raised Hereford steer, sired by a bull from the Long herd of Irma, stood eighth in the greatest 4-H show ever held in Alberta. Twenty years in 4-H work in Irma have definitely been worthwhile.

In the following account we have listed names of members each year with the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champions; the President of the Club for that year, when known, and the Club Leader for that time. It would be nice to list all the members for they are the ones who made the clubs the success that they were, and the officers who worked under their President to keep the Club running smoothly. The Senior Committee is another group, comprised usually of members' fathers, who work in the background helping with Achievement Days, etc. One who continued with this help long after his children were no longer in the Club, is Bob Dempsey. And we must not forget the mothers; fund raising, car driving, you name it and they are there to help.

Irma 4-H Beef Club has been fortunate in the auctioneers who have donated their time and energy to sell the Club's calves throughout the years. Listed below are these gentlemen according to the records available: Gordon Stalker, Viking; George Reynolds and Lloyd Oxy, Wainwright; Chester Gamble, Mannville; Maury Jacobs, Edmonton; Jock Muirhead, Sedgewick; Archie MacDonald, Red Willow; Clarence Lovig, Vermilion; Allan Fleming, Wainwright; Elgin Brown; and a special "thank you" to John Allen, who sold the calves for twelve years before his death. For the last few years John's son, Richard Allen has been alternating with-Bishop Auction Service, Provost.



Irma 4-H Beef Club in old skating rink - early 1950's.





The 4-H Club in 1949. Garth Tomlinson, Keith Currie, Clark Smith, Fred Kuwika, Margaret Steele, Irene Meyer, Betty Prior, Winnie Thurston, ?, Ron Currie, Don Fischer, Darwin Lambert, Ken Fischer, Erling Nilson, Katherine Meyer, ?, Butch Fischer, Keith Steele.



Al Fenton giving a demonstration on how to present your calf on Achievement Day. The demonstration was held at Newtons'.



Bill Newton with Grand Champion Calf, being presented with ribbons by Bert Smith, Leader.



Two of the best 4-H supporters - Jack Kennedy and Robert Dempsey in June 1971.

The twelve-year-old's first letter home from summer camp read, "Send food! All they have here is breakfast, dinner and supper!"

WHAT IS A 4-H CLUB LEADER?

Somewhere between the sternness of a parent and the comradeship of a pal is that mysterious creature we call a 4-H Leader.

These leaders come in all shapes and sizes and may be male or female. But they all have one thing in common - a glorious twinkle in their eyes.

4-H Leaders are found everywhere - at rallies, 4-H Fair Exhibits, square dances, and talent shows. They always are preparing for, sitting through, participating in, or recuperating from a meeting of some kind.

They're tireless consumers of muffins, expert at taking knots out of thread, peerless coaches and spend hours on the telephone.

A 4-H Leader is many things - an artist making a float for the parade, a doctor prescribing for an underfed calf, a counsellor at camp, a lawyer filling out reports, and a shoulder to cry on when that dress just won't fit.

Nobody else is so early to rise and so late to get home at night. Nobody else has so much fun with so many boys and girls.

We sometimes forget them, but we can't do without them. They receive no salary, but we never can repay them.

They are angels in aprons, saints in straw hats. Their only reward is the love of the kids and the respect of the community. But when they look around them at the skills they have taught, and the youth they've built there's an inner voice somewhere that says, "Well Done".

The following is our list of "winners" etc.:

	Grand Champion	Reserve Grand Champion	President of Club	Leader
1947	Raymond Patterson			Stuart Fenton
1948	Harriet Sanders	Garth Tomlinson	Clark Steel	Stuart Fenton
1949	Winnie Thurston	Garth Tomlinson		Stuart Fenton
1950	Bert Smith	John Fleming	Garth Tomlinson	Stuart Fenton
1951	Gordon Firkus	Ken Oracheski		Stuart Fenton
1952	Gordon Firkus	Marjorie Rawluk		Stuart Fenton
1953	Joan Patterson	Ken Oracheski	Bob Fischer	Stuart Fenton
1954	George Bacon	Ronnie Firkus		Stuart Fenton

In 1954 the Czar Beef Club showed their twenty calves at Czar and then brought them to Irma where they took part in a Judging Competition and then had them sold with the Irma contingent. Jack Roworth's calf brought 27 1/2¢ from Weiller and Williams, while Maurice Miller's calf sold for 27¢ to Irma's Elk Lodge.

To continue: In 1955 the first PeeWee Club was formed in Irma. The winners will be listed under the Seniors:

	Grand Champion	Reserve Grand Champion	President of Club	Leader
1955	Gordon Firkus	Todd Smith	Bert Smith	Stuart Fenton
PeeWee	Pat Rawluk	Jerry Mark		
1956	Maureen Dempsey	Todd Smith	Joan Patterson	Stuart Fenton
	Barry Long	Ron Dempsey		
1957	Carl Fenton	Bert Smith	Joan Patterson	Stuart Fenton
	Larry Mark	Stan Bacon		

The Irma Club was inactive for the years 1958, 1959 and 1960. In 1961 it was re-organized with Eddie Jackson a Leader.

	Grand Champion	Reserve Grand Champion	President of Club	Leader
1961	Ron Dempsey	Lorna Larson	Ron Dempsey	Eddie Jackson
PeeWee	Only two PeeWees - Bill Inkin and Randy Long			
1962	Jerry Mark	Henry Fenton	Ron Dempsey	Eddie Jackson
	Bryce Long	Gordon Thurston		
1963	Henry Fenton	Barbie Fenton	Ron Dempsey	Bert Smith
	Jimmy Barss	Kenny Owen		
1964	Henry Fenton	Ron Dempsey	Ron Dempsey	Dick Tullson
	Bob Smallwood	Marianne Raasok		
1965	Marianne Raasok	Randy Long	Barry Long	Dick Tullson
	Diana Long	Lyle Oracheski		
1966	Lyle Oracheski	Randy Long	Gordie Thurston	Dick Tullson
	Diana Long	Morris Oracheski		
1967	Marianne Raasok	Marlene Raasok	Randy Long	Dick Tullson
	Darryl Oracheski	Morris Oracheski		
1968	Bryce Long	Marianne Raask	Marianne Raasok	Dick Tullson
	Harold Gulbraa	Darryl Oracheski		
1969	Lyle Oracheski	Lorraine Gulbraa	Marianne Raasok	Ole Nissen
	Charlie Jackson	Darryl Oracheski		
1970	Billy Holt	Harold Gulbraa	Bryce Long	Blaine Copeland
	Billy Newton	Bradley Nilson		

In 1971 Heifers were included in the Irma 4-H Beef Club and in the following year these heifers with first calves.

	Grand Champion	Reserve Grand Champion	President of Club	Leader
1971	Billy Holt	Darryl Oracheski	Billy Holt	Blaine Copeland
PeeWee	Anita Newton	Billy Newton		
Heifer	Harold Gulbraa	Linda Copeland		



Jerry Mark in June 1962 in arena before roof was put up.



4-H float for Irma's Sixtieth Anniversary Parade. We won First prize, too!

In 1972 the Club decided to have the Junior Club (Peewees) and the Senior Club compete for Grand and Reserve Champion after being "placed" in their own groups.

	Grand Champion	Reserve Grand Champion	President of Club	Leader
1972	Diana Long	Gordie Holt	Harold Gulbraa	Blaine Copeland
Junior	Greg Fischer	Charlie Jackson		
Final	Greg Fischer	Diana Long		
Heifer	Diana Long	Morris Oracheski		
1973	Billy Newton	Gordie Holt	Darryl Oracheski	Bert Smith
Junior	Greg Fischer	Mervin MacKay		
Final	Greg Fischer	Billy Newton		
Heifer	Diana Long	Darryl Oracheski		
2 Yr. Old	Brent Fischer	Diana Long	Darryl Nilson	Bert Smith
1974	Brent Fischer	Gordie Holt		
Junior	Greg Fischer	Sherry Fischer		
Final	Brent Fischer	Greg Fischer		
Heifer	Anita Newton	Lynn Smith		
2 Yr. Old	Billy Newton	Brent Fischer		
1975	Greg Fischer	Tannis Oracheski	Brent Fischer	Bert Smith
Junior	Sherry Fischer	Dianne Smith		
Final	Greg Fischer	Sherry Fischer		
Heifer	Tannis Oracheski	Lynn Smith		
2 Yr. Old	Lynn Smith	Charlie Jackson	Charlie Jackson	Bert Smith
1976	Billy Newton	Raymond Tomlinson		
Junior	Chris Oracheski	Sherry Fischer		
Final	Billy Newton	Raymond Tomlinson		
Heifer	Dianne Smith	Gordon Mark		
1977	Garnet MacKay	Anita Newton	Tannis Oracheski	Bert Smith
Junior	Dianne Smith	Gordon Mark		
Final	Dianne Smith	Garnet MacKay		
Heifer	Randy Newton	Gail Oracheski		
2 Yr. Old	Darlene Lockhart	Gordon Mark		
1978	Chris Oracheski	Lynn Smith	Anita Newton	Bert Smith
Junior	Trevor MacKay	Tracy Fischer		
Final	Trevor MacKay	Chris Oracheski		
Heifer	Karen Newton	Gordon Mark		
2 Yr. Old	Lynn Smith	Randy Newton		

1979	Karen Newton	Lynn Smith	Gail Oracheski	Bert Smith
Junior	Darren Archibald	Shawna Skori		
Final	Karen Newton	Lynn Smith		
Heifer	Lynn Smith	Karen Newton	Karen Newton	Bert Smith
1980	Dianne Smith	Shelley MacKay		
Junior	Leonard Mark	Teresa Mark		
Final	Leonard Mark	Dianne Smith		
Heifer	Dianne Smith	Doug Smith		
2 Yr. Old	Leonard Mark	Dianne Smith		
1981	Gordon Mark	Karen Newton	Sherrie Fischer	Bert Smith
Junior	Leonard Mark	David Oracheski		
Final	Gordon Mark	Leonard Mark		
Heifer	Leonard Mark	Karen Newton		
2 Yr. Old	Leonard Mark	Doug Fischer		
1982	Dianne Smith	Leonard Mark	Blake Prior	Bert Smith
Junior	Teresa Mark	Lorry Fleming		
Final	Dianne Smith	Teresa Mark		
Heifer	Leonard Mark	Karen Newton		
1983	Lotty Fleming	Doug Smith	Beret Skori	Brent Fischer
Junior	Gordon Fenton	Teresa Mark		Diana Long
Final	Lotty Fleming	Gordon Fenton		
Heifer	Lorry Fleming	Lotty Fleming		
2 Yr. Old	Doug Fischer	Steven Raasok		
1984	Gordon Fenton	Lorry Fleming	Shauna Skori	Brent Fischer
Junior	Jody Fenton	Glen Gwinn		Diana Long
Final	Jody Fenton	Gordon Fenton		
Heifer	Doug Smith	Doug Fischer		
2 Yr. Old	Lotty Fleming	Lorry Fleming		

In later years another enjoyable part of being a “4-Her” was the Exchange Trips. Not only did they see different parts of Canada and U.S.A. but they met their counterparts and saw how they lived. Many friendships were started in this way.

Information on the early Exchanges is not too complete. The following list gives a scant outline of the years 1969 to 1974. From 1974 on is supplied by Mary Newton who was Assistant Leader.

1969	-Olds Trip to Brandon; Lorraine Gulbraa
	Exchange to Spirit River
1970	-Spirit River visited this Region
	Regional to Brandon; Marianne Raasok
1971	-District Exchange to Swan River, Manitoba
1972	-Swan River, Manitoba returned the visit
	Regional Exchange to California; Bryce Long
1973	-
1974	-District Exchange to Selkirk, Manitoba; Brent Fischer, Tannis Oracheski, Bill Newton and Darrel Oracheski
	Regional Exchange - California visited us
1975	-Selkirk “4-Hers” returned the visit
1976	-Montana Exchange visited this Region
1977	-District Exchange to Montana; Anita Newton, Randy Newton, Chris Oracheski, Lynn Smith
1978	-District Exchange to Prince Edward island; Lynn Smith, Sharon Lockhart, Bradley Nilson
	Regional Trip to Ontario - Anita Newton
1979	-Regional Exchange - California came here

	District Exchange to Ontario; Dianne Smith, Ian Currie, Karen Newton
1980	-Regional Exchange to California; Karen Newton
1981	-District Exchange to Montana; Beret Skori, Shelley MacKay, Mona McKay
	Regional Trip to Minnesota; Gordon Mark
1982	-Minnesota returned the visit
1983	-District Exchange to Ontario; David Oracheski
	Regional Exchange to Montana; Shauna Skori

Our apologies for any errors or omissions.

In the summers if you were not going on exchanges you could always go to summer camp at Arm Lake or Moose Lake. If you weren't a camper you could be a counsellor.

Public speaking has always been encouraged among the Clubs. The Irma Club did not enter that often but were very successful when they did. The two names mentioned in this regard are Marianne Raasok and Anita Newton.

Another way in which the Members of the 4-H get to know each other is in the Sports area. Winter finds the Clubs sponsoring Curling Bonspiels and inviting the other Clubs. Bowling is another popular sport in which the Clubs can compete.

When the District Exchanges came back to visit us, a “get-together” day brought all the Clubs together for a day of softball, races, etc. ending with a Pot Luck supper.

There seems no better way to end this story of the Irma 4-H Beef Club than to quote their Pledge:

I Pledge:
My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
My health to better living,
For my Club, my Community,
and my Country.

4-H CLOTHING CLUB

In October 1968 the Clothing Club was organized with Mrs. Marion Fischer as leader and Mrs. Bernice Wahlund as assistant. In 1969 Mrs. Margaret Smith took over as leader and in 1971 Mrs. Phyllis King became assistant. Patti Kirkman was the first president. Sometimes a joint Achievement Day was held with the 4-H Food Club. The club carried on for a few years but finally disbanded.

4-H FOOD CLUB

The Irma Food Club was organized in the fall of 1968 with Gloria Holt as leader. Ten girls joined. In 1969 Irene Drewicki was assistant leader and in 1970 Marjorie Oracheski became leader. The club grew in size and at one time had over twenty members, a number of them boys. Mary Newton and Stella Glasgow were leaders but it disbanded in 1980 for the lack of leaders.

4-H WHEAT CLUB

The 4-H Wheat Club was organized in February 1951 with thirty-four members registered and Ole Nissen as leader. The first slate of officers included: President, Jack MacKay; Vice, Alan Darkes; Secretary-Treasurer, Vivian Archibald. An Achievement Day was held in the fall with each member displaying his or her sample of wheat. During the summer the members toured individual plots.

Some activities the Club undertook were: cemetery clean-up, dances, bingos, curling, and they produced a play "Have a Heart". They took a three-day trip to Calgary, trips to Edmonton and a fishing trip to Crane Lake.

The club was active until 1957. Presidents of the Club were: Jack MacKay, Gordon Hollinger, Ken Fischer, Ron Prior, Harold Dootson, Keith Currie and John Fleming.

Secretaries were: Vivian Archibald, Clarke Steele, Marian Smallwood, Sonny Archibald and Warren Fuder.

*Thank God for dirty dishes,
They have a tale to tell;
While other folks go hungry,
We're eating very well.
With Home and Health and Happiness,
We shouldn't want to fuss,
For by this stack of evidence,
God's very good to us!*



Irma 4-H Beef Club in 1984. Back Row: Diana Long - Leader, Shawna Pasztor, Darla Skori, Shanon Archibald, Teresa Mark, Darin Archibald, Doug Fischer, Jacqui Prior, Doug Smith, Shawna Skori, Brent Fischer - Leader. Middle Row: Jody Fenton, Scott Jack, Gordon Fenton, Deana Prior, Lorry Fleming, Lotty Fleming, Sylvia Raasok, David Oracheski. Front Row: Lee Gwinn, Allen Crawford, Krista Skori, Glen Gwinn, Jennifer Fenton, Trent Barse.

IRMA CUBS AND SCOUTS

A meeting to organize Cubs and Scouts was held December 10, 1958 in the school lunchroom. Officers elected were Chairman - Reverend Inglis; Secretary - Olive Murray; and Treasurer - Elsie McRoberts. Group committee members included Art Knudson, Dick McRoberts, Gage Pendleton, Fred Jack, Bob Harris, Erwin Prosser, Mina Inkin and John Murray.

Colors chosen were lemon and black. Over the years many citizens have held office - many of whom have passed on. At first the Home and School Association sponsored the group but they resigned in 1961 and the Elks took over. Over the years the Cubs and Scouts have held pancake suppers, sold Christmas trees and had bottle drives to raise money.

In 1967 their Centennial Project was to obtain a hall so that the Cubs and Scouts had a permanent home for meetings and activities. With much volunteer help, contributions from organizations and memorial donations, their hall was opened August 8, 1967. In 1984 there are ten Cubs and Beavers. Terry Jones is the Beaver leader and Greg Jamison and Marvin Bassendowski look after the Cubs.



Ron Copeland and Richard Larson with Cubs - June, 1982.



Irma Cubs' Parade Float - 1985.

IRMA ELKS LODGE NO. 366

The Irma Elks Lodge, No. 366 was instituted with fifty-six members on October 15, 1952 in Keifer's Hall by Bro. Miquelon, Dominion Grand Organizer of Edmonton. Bro. Larry Meier was the first Exalted Ruler. Of the present forty-nine members, seven are charter members: J.R.A. McFarland, E.S.C. Prior, A.L. Larson, A.C. Milne, W.H. Parsons, S.C. Johnson and A.E. Jones.

Bro. L. Meier, Bro. A. Firkus and Bro. W. Parsons have served as District Deputies.

The first meetings were held in Keifer's Hall, Hedley's Hall and the old Public School, but meetings are now held in the Legion Hall.

The Lodge has been very active in the past, helping the many services; sponsoring Little and Pony League Ball, Cubs and Scouts, and the local Blood Donor Clinics. Financial assistance has been given to the Steffanson and Delusion Lakes Funds; North Irma Community Association, 4-H Calf Club, Irma School Band, Student Assistance Fund, Track and Field activities, Irma Minor Hockey Association, Irma Arena, Irma Curling Club, New Horizons Club, Irma Minor Fastball and the Canadian Legion Cenotaph Fund. The Lodge has made donations to the Purple Cross Fund, Red Cross, Cancer, Polio and Crippled Children Funds and the Irma Family Living Series and the C.N.I.B.

Besides sending cards and gifts to the Elk and Royal Purple members when they are hospitalized, we help local families in times of distress. At Christmastime treats are sent to the senior citizens in the Viking and Wainwright Lodges and to local needy families.

The Elks held the first Irma Barbeque June 28, 1953 on Louis Larson's picnic grounds. From 1955 to 1973 this annual barbeque and sports day was held at the North Irma Community Picnic Grounds. In 1974 the sports day was moved to the Irma Sports Ground, where it was held until 1977. Since 1977 the Elks along with the Royal Purple have prepared the barbeque for the annual Irma Days celebrations.

Some of the most important highlights of the Lodge community services are: donation of a wheelchair to the Irma School, sizeable donations to the Irma School Band in 1975 and 1976 for their participation in the Calgary Stampede Parade, and in 1981 for their trip to Cranbrook; 1981 hosted the Alberta Canada Bantam "A" Fastball Championships and in 1983 hosted Alberta Bantam "A" Provincial Finals.

Other activities of the Lodge include a float in the Irma parade together with the Royal Purple; annual Elks Campout; Elks-Masons curling bonspiel; Lodge bonspiel and social; Corby Cup district and zone curling playoffs; and various dances throughout the year.

Over the years, the Lodge has been honored with several visits from Grand Lodge Officers and Provincial Elks Association Officers. Also many different members have had the pleasure of attending both Grand Lodge and Provincial Elks Conventions.

With the principles Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity, Elkdom should continue to be an important service to the Irma Community.



Jim Hinton, John Newton, Mark Russell, Bill Guy, Art Pierce, Ron Prior, Allan Larson, John Ganie, Leigh Pierce, Mel Pomeroy, Gordon Lovig.

IRMA O.O.R.P. HISTORY

by Stella Glasgow

The Order of the Royal Purple No. 165 was instituted in Irma on June 17, 1953 with thirty-three chartered members.

The following were Chartered Officers:

Honored Royal Lady	- Lady Myrtle Loades
Associate Royal Lady	- Lady Lois Jack
Loyal Lady	- Lady Ruby MacMillan
Lecturing Lady	- Lady Eileen Prior
Secretary	- Lady Jean Larson
Treasurer	- Lady Elsie Coultman
Historian	- Lady Dorcas Coffin
Chaplain	- Lady C.A. McLean
Conductress	- Lady Laurene Meier
Inner Guard	- Lady Ethel McFarland
Outer Guard	- Lady Irene Drewicki
Three Year Trustee	- Lady Charlotte Larson
Two Year Trustee	- Lady Elizabeth Prior
One Year Trustee	- Lady Vera Larson
Pianist	- Lady Mona Patterson

Thirty-one years later several chartered members are very active members. The membership now is fifty-three with the present slate of officers:

Honored Royal Lady	- Lady Louisa Prosser
Associate Royal Lady	- Lady Ruby Taylor
Loyal Lady	- Lady Gayle Soucy
Lecturing Lady	- Lady Marj Guiltner
Secretary	- Lady Linda Pomeroy
Treasurer	- Lady Ruth Archibald
Historian	- Lady Carol Prior
Chaplain	- Lady Stella Glasgow
Conductress	- Lady Betty Rae Gray
Inner Guard	- Lady Margaret Archibald
Outer Guard	- Lady Lynn Jack
Three Year Trustee	- Lady Glenda Pierce
Two Year Trustee	- Lady Judy Lemieux
One Year Trustee	- Lady Jean Larson
Pianist	- Lady Bev Copeland
	- Lady Olive Jones

Installation 1984-85. First Row: P.H.R.L. Jones, P.H.R.L. Taylor, H.R.L. Prosser, D.D. Overbo, Lady Soucy. Second Row: L. Guiltner, L. Ho, L. Pomeroy, L. Jack, L. Jackson, L. Pierce. Third Row: L. Garbe, L. Larson, P.H.R.L. M. Archibald, L. Gertsma, L.R. Archibald, L. Prior.



Looking back over the "History" I find that our lodge's fund raising activities are numerous:

- our lodge has assisted the B.P.O. Elks with bingos, curling, socials, dances, banquets, barbeques, sports days, etc.
- travelling food basket, birthday box, Sunshine fund
- raffles, bingos, bake sales, walkathon
- annual St. Patrick's Tea and Bake Sale
- served lunches at New Year's Eve dances, F.U.A. picnic and dance, Legion Armistice dance, gymkhanas
- take our turn with the Santa Claus Day tea
- held several Christmas Teas with Doll Bazaar
- catered to several weddings, Fenton's livestock sales, Kinsmen, several anniversaries
- we also canvass annually for the Red Cross and the C.N.I.B.

From the funds raised we have donated to:

- Purple Cross Fund
- Rodino Disaster Hurricane Fund
- Save the Children Fund
- Woods Christian Fund
- local fire victims and needy families
- Irma Rest Room
- helped Board of Trade with treats for Santa Claus Day
- Cancer Fund
- Red Cross
- Student Assistance Fund
- March of Dimes
- United Nations Students Delegates to Banff
- Christmas oranges to the Seniors at Vialta Lodge, Extendicare, Battle River Lodge and the Wainwright Auxiliary
- donated to the Irma School Band
- donated to 4-H Clubs, Irma Brownies, Irma Cubs and Albert Busy Beaver Club
- donated to Falcon Enterprises
- donated to the kitchens at the Curling Rink and the Arena, supplied dinner for the workers who constructed the playground at the school
- sponsored local students who attended the Terry Fox Foundation
- placed plaques in the Drop-In Center to honour the Senior Citizens who participated in the Senior Summer Games
- sponsor Delegates to the Supreme Lodge Convention

Each year regular inter-lodge visits are enjoyed with lodges within District No. 4, namely Wainwright, Edgerton, Chauvin, Hardisty, Kinsella, Viking and Holden. All lodges in this district gather in April for a District Meeting - each lodge takes its turn acting as hostess.

At Easter we pack cookies for the seniors and shut-ins in this area. The O.O.R.P. members visit the Senior Citizen Lodges in the district with the lodge members providing a program as well as the lunch. We all look forward to the annual Christmas Party when we entertain the Irma ladies.

On Royal Purple Day in June we are pleased to entertain the Irma Seniors at the Lilac Tea.

In conjunction with the B.P.O.E. we have provided a float for the Irma Sports Day Parade. Our Drill Team has assisted with the installation of the B.P.O.E. and last year we were pleased to have a Joint Installation.

Over the past years it is interesting to note several of our members have served as District Deputy for this District. In February, 1984 our lodge was honored to have the Supreme Honored Royal Lady of Canada, Lady Evelyn Northey from Red Deer, at our regular meeting. Also in attendance was District Deputy from this district, Lady Frances Overbo from Kinsella as well as the Honored Royal Ladies and visiting members from the other lodges in this area with an attendance of eighty-seven, a very rewarding evening.

In closing I would like to quote: "The purpose of the Order is to practise Justice, Charity, Love and Fidelity, to promote the happiness of its members, to enhance the spirit of womanhood to a pure and noble life and to cultivate good fellowship throughout Purpledom. Furthermore to assist the B.P.O.E. to promote the aims and purposes of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada."



H.R.L. Louisa Prosser, S.H.R.L. Evelyn Northey, P.H.R.L. Ruby Taylor.



Life Memberships to P.H.R.L. Cockcroft, L. Mark, L.G. Archibald, by H.R.L. Louisa Prosser.

IRMA HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

submitted by Marina Hollinger

The Irma Home and School Association was formed on February 22, 1950, just six weeks before the opening of our school in April. Rev. H.W. Inglis was the first president. Others that have served as presidents are: Mrs. J. Steele, Mrs. R. Kirkman, Mrs. K. Coffin, Mrs. S. Fenton, Mrs. J. Craig, Mrs. O. Raasok, Mrs. F. Drewicki, Mrs. C. Gulbraa, Mrs. E. Jackson, Mrs. A. Crouse, Mrs. P. Holt, Mr. J. MacKay and Mrs. E. Nilson.

During the early 1950's we started to sell vitamin pills to the students and this was carried on until 1973. The first Variety Concert was held in 1954. We have sponsored Red Cross swimming, served lunch at hockey games, and graduation and we have helped more recently in the 4-H booth with lunch. We have supported students to attend different youth organizations: Canadian Cross-roads International Program, Forum for Young Canadians, Quebec Student Exchange and Terry Fox Youth Center.

In 1959, the awarding of a prize to the classroom with the best representation of parents at Home and School meetings was started. This is still done to promote attendance at our meetings. The prize has varied from field trips for the winning class, the placing of a toy "road runner" in the classroom, and more recently the prize was a gift of money which the class used to purchase something needed in their classroom.

In 1963 we held our first Christmas Party for members

and this has become an annual event enjoyed by all. Mrs. McRoberts will be remembered for directing our caroling and particularly "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

A community party was sponsored by Home and School in 1968 to honor Mr. D.H. Gunn who had completed 25 years of teaching in Irma. We have also recognized our retiring teachers with "Retirement Parties" namely: Mrs. M. Murray and Mrs. D. Likness (1971); Mrs. M. Millar and Mr. D. Gunn (1972); Mrs. M. Fischer and Mrs. O. Darling (1974); Mrs. C. Ballentine and Mrs. P. Craig (1976); Mrs. K. Clumstad (1979) and Mrs. L. Prosser (1981), and Mrs. E. McRoberts (1985).

In 1970 we set up a Library Fund to enable us to purchase books for our School Library. This fund is still accessible for those wishing to make donations. We were also instrumental in having a P.A. System installed in the gym. This was paid for by having a Skateathon and a Bakeless Bake Sale. The system had some "kinks" in it, so more work was done on it in 1984 and it seems to be working well now.

The Home and School commemorated 25 years in 1975. On April 25th we marked the occasion by combining it with our Variety Program. Mrs. Jean Jackson, President of the Home and School Federation, was guest speaker. There were skits by the Drama Club, selections by the School Band, and songs from grades 1-4.

In 1981 an official Constitution was made for our Home and School.

The average attendance at meetings has not been great through the years, but there are concerned parents and teachers that feel the need of this organization, and the executives have appreciated the support.



Elks and Royal Purple Parade.

KINSMEN CLUB OF IRMA

The formation of the Irma Kinsmen Club came about as a result of a lot of conversation and controversy. The original idea was the brainchild of one Bob Smallwood. He felt there was a need and place for an organization such as this, placing emphasis on the interests and energies of the age twenty to forty group of young men and their families in the community. So, it evolved that, through the sponsorship of the Kinsmen Club of Wainwright, the Kinsmen Club of Irma received its Charter on April 28, 1978.

The Charter Executive consisted of:

President - Bob Smallwood
Vice-President - Doug Coffin
Secretary - John Pasztor
Treasurer - Richard Larson
Registrar - Randy Long
Directors - Ron Larson, Trevor Jones, Gordie Fischer
Members -

Jerry Barber
Lyle Burns
Bob Burton
Russ Copeland
Dennis Fahner
Brent Fischer
Dick Mitton
Bill Ramsay
Don Lukens
Wayne Ronjom
Charlie Soucy
Lorne Anquist
Terry Meakins
Henry Fenton
Ron Dempsey

As in all clubs, membership fluctuates from year to year. The Club has become a recognized group in the national Kin family partly as a direct result of its relatively small membership of an average twenty young men. In the inevitable Irma style of doing things just that little bit better, the Irma Kinsmen have amazed much larger clubs across Canada with their successful endeavors.

The Annual Hawaiian Barbecue is quite a feat to top when an average of ten Kin Couples work to organize the big night. Since its first appearance, the barbecue has raised more than \$30,000.00 earmarked for community use. Other functions have raised monies for the community and for the National Kinsmen cause, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The Kinsmen have actively participated in areas of need in the community, including:

- building a much needed loft for the Kindergarten classroom
- participating in the ECS playground project
- building grain bins through the co-operation of A. (Sonny) Archibald
- providing and planting trees in the school yard
- contributing to the arena sound system
- providing an outdoor skating rink when weather permits
- sponsoring students to the Terry Fox Camp, Referee schools
- sponsoring the Babysitters Course

When the Irma Beavers and Cubs needed a new sponsor, the Irma Kinsmen accepted the role, providing the young boys with equipment, funds, and a most skillful staff of cooks for the Annual Pancake Supper!

The new Irma Curling Rink was a project spearheaded by the Kinsmen. Major funding of the rink played a large part in its construction.



Kinsmen serving at Cub & Scout Pancake Supper: Art Jack, Brent Fischer, Brad Nilson, Russell Copeland, Bob Burton.

The new Golf Clubhouse is another project of the Kinsmen and funds are being set aside for it. These two buildings are a district product of Kinsmen and other community clubs working together.

The basic concept of Kinsmen is to serve the community's greatest need. They strive to do this in a way that will benefit family life and kinship among members. The Irma Club has many functions to include families, among these being camp-out weekends, family pot luck suppers, Christmas parties, hayrides, picnics and more. The Kinsmen have held an annual Wives' Appreciation Night when the entire club treats itself to the best available restaurant and says thank you to their Kin Wives for their support and assistance at Kinsmen functions throughout the year.

In the fall of 1983, the Irma Kinsmen took on a project which may have put our little village on the map! This was, namely, the 1983 Fall Council of District IV, which basically encompassed meetings, entertainment, meals and accommodation for over three hundred Kinsmen. This convention had never before been held in a small centre. But this never daunted our brave (?) Knights as they set out to make it one of the most successful conventions ever held. The theme was Kin Arthur Days and the village of Irma was intrigued by the drawbridge, tents, and Knight in Shining Armour on his loyal steed! The Irma Kinsmen were highly praised for their achievement - we can be justly proud of this young organization.

IRMA KINETTE CLUB

*submitted by Sherrilee Fischer
Irma Kinetite Club*

As a result of all Kinsmen activity of the past few years, some of the Kin Wives decided to meet informally on a regular basis. On March 27, 1982, the Irma Kinetite Club received its charter and with the help of the Sedgewick Kinettes set up a small socially oriented group. The Charter members were:



Back Row: Trevor Jones, Bob Smallwood, Bob Burton, Randy Long, Russell Copeland.

President - Marj Guiltner
Vice-President - Margo Long
Secretary - Lynn Jack
Treasurer - Pinky (Maureen) Gulbraa
Registrar - Donna Smallwood
Bulletin Editor - Sherrilee Fischer
Director - Pat Burton
Members - Anne Jones, Eva Pasztor



Formation of Irma Kinettes. Back Row: Eva Pasztor, Pinky Gulbraa, Pat Burton, Sherrilee Fischer. Front Row: Anne Jones, Marg Guiltner, Lynn Jack, Margo Long, Donna Smallwood.

The Irma Kinettes maintain a relatively low profile. Many of the members are active in other community organizations and prefer to enjoy the supper meetings and visiting other clubs as an evening of relaxation and fellowship. We maintain contact with the Kinsmen in sharing and assisting with their projects. As a young club we have contributed to the Ringette teams, judged the Irma Daze parade, sold cookbooks, and catered to some Kinsmen functions. Our one big food service project took place during the 1983 Fall Council when seven of our members served food to and washed dishes for those three hundred plus Kinsmen (+ +700 plates!). Irma ladies have always held a great reputation for serving terrific meals and we had our work cut out for us in keeping that reputation intact! We are proud to say we received a standing ovation for the project!

The Irma Kinettes have joined other Kinette Clubs in the "Buckle-Up Baby" program this year (1984). Designed to promote safe travel for newborn infants, the program involves low cost rental of infant car carriers to parents in and around the Irma district. At time of writing, this project has been operating successfully for the past few months and looks like it will continue to do so. We are looking forward to contributing to the community in this way.

IRMA NEW HORIZONS CLUB

At a meeting of senior citizens of the Irma community, held in the Legion Hall on July 18, 1974 it was decided to organize a senior citizens' group for the area. The officers elected at this meeting were: President: D.H. Gunn; Vice-President: Mrs. Georgina Enger; Secretary: Mrs. Alma Enger; and Treasurer: Mrs. J.C. Margaret Millar.

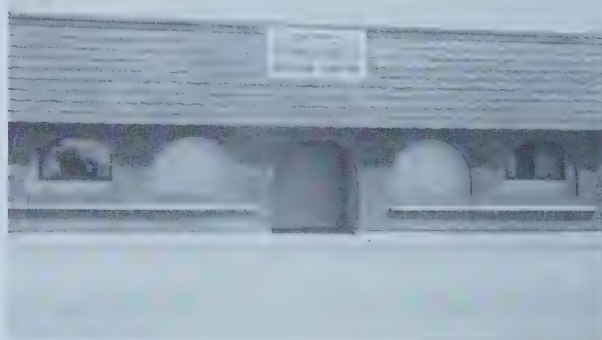
At the second meeting of the organization the name "New Horizons Club", suggested by Mrs. Lily Simmermon was chosen. Directors elected at the second meeting were: William Dootson, James Jackson, Martin Enger, Alex Smallwood, Stan Brown, Dorcas Coffin, Elma Tomlinson, Elsie Satre and Lily Simmermon.

During the following months the Club was properly registered and the members addressed the problem of developing a Drop-In Centre. Until that objective was reached, meetings were held in members' homes, the Cub and Scout Hall, and the Legion Hall. After long and careful consideration of several alternatives, the Club accepted the offer of the Village of Irma of the building on the east side of Main Street known as "Irma Food Market", and set about the raising of money to renovate and furnish the premises to be a Drop-In Centre.

This building had been erected originally in 1918 by Mr. William Wyatt. It was first occupied by Mr. Ray Moore who operated a garage in it. In 1922 it was taken over by Mr. E.L. Elford, who operated a Ford, and later, a Chevrolet agency. As well, Mr. Elford took over the light plant from Mr. Charles Lattner and supplied power for the Village until he sold the plant to Calgary Power (now TransAlta Utilities) in 1928. For a period in the early 1930's the building was closed, then remodelled and in 1936 Mr. Elford opened a General Store and Butcher



Back Row: Marg Guiltner, Sherilee Fischer, Eva Pasztor, Pat Burton, Anne Jones. Front Row: Donna Smallwood, Margo Long.



New Horizon's Drop-in Centre.



Charlie Milne, Ludwig Satre, Archie Cook, look on while Bill Dootson makes his shot.

Shop. This he operated until 1947, when he sold the business to Bob Kirkman and Colin McLean. In 1950 it was taken over by Mr. Larry Meier who built living quarters in the north half of it and ran a very successful butcher shop and locker plant from the south half until 1965. It was later purchased by Mr. Frank Ford who operated the business for a short time before closing it down. The building had remained unoccupied for several years, had fallen into a state of severe disrepair, and reverted to the Village. The New Horizons Club was faced with much labor and expense to convert the building into an attractive Drop-In Centre.

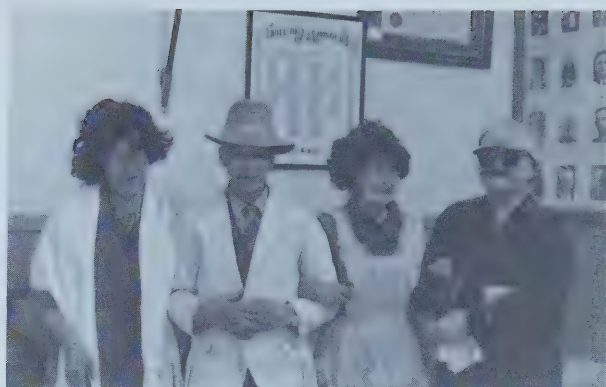
Two of the Club members, James Jackson and Bill Dootson canvassed the community for donations, meeting with a generous response. Grants were received from the New Horizons Program Preventive Social Services.

Some volunteer work was done toward the reconstruction of the building, but it was found that the work was too heavy and too extensive for members to accomplish, so a contract was signed with Marion Brothers Construction to do the main parts of the work. Much of the finishing work was done by volunteer labor. Donations of materials and furniture were received from local individuals and organizations. The Drop-In Centre, completed and furnished at an approximate cost of thirty-five thousand dollars, was officially opened on June 14, 1978.

The Centre has a well-equipped kitchen, and facilities for pool, card-playing, discing, shuffleboard, reading and other activities. Yoga classes and health clinics are held in the building, and it continues to serve as a focus for senior citizens' activities.

On October 20, 1983, Larry and Laurene Meier, at that time retired in Taber, Alberta, called at the Drop-In Centre and donated two of Larry's oil paintings, which are now prominently displayed on the wall.

In addition to operating the Drop-In Centre, the Irma New Horizons Club has been and remains active in the promotion of all aspects of senior citizens' welfare in the Irma Community and in the province.



The Seniors' Christmas Party held on December 14, 1977: Adelaide Dootson, Harry Riley, Winnie Riley, and Elsie Satre.



Laurene and Larry Meier with Mr. Gunn and Alma Enger.



Alberta Senior Games Gold Medal Winners in Camrose in 1980. Center Annie Milne.



Seniors receive plaque. M. Jackson receives from Louisa Prosser.

IRMA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The first Women's Institute was organized in Ontario, February 19th, 1894 and early in the 1900's the first Alberta Branch was organized at Lea Park. In the early spring of 1928 several ladies of Irma and district decided that a women's organization was needed in this community. One of these ladies, Mrs. Bert Long, had previously belonged to a W.I. so suggested starting a branch here.

After corresponding with the A.W.I. Provincial Secretary and getting the necessary information and materials, a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Schonert on March 7th, 1928. It was decided to form a branch to be known as "The Irma Women's Institute".

At this meeting Mrs. Wm. Cole was elected President, Mrs. Sarah Matheson, Secretary-Treasurer. Directors: Mrs. Bert Long, Mrs. Wm. Milburn and Mrs. Schonert. Charter members were: Mrs. Wm. Cole, Mrs. Renwick, Mrs. Schonert, Mrs. Asquith, Mrs. Hassie, Mrs. Blade, Mrs. Dick Larson, Mrs. B. Long, Mrs. Sarah Matheson, Mrs. A.A. Fischer, Mrs. Maguire and Mrs. Wm. Milburn. Later that year Mrs. P.E. Jones, Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Mrs. J. Rae, Mrs. E. Rae, Mrs. Ina Knudson, Mrs. F.T. Thurston, Mrs. Wm. Barber, Mrs. Charter, Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Murray joined, giving a membership of twenty-two.

We have been fortunate in having several constituency conveners from our branch, e.g. Mrs. Ross McFarland Sr., Mrs. J.C. McLean, Mrs. C. Smallwood, Mrs. D. Gunn and Mrs. W. Parsons. Mrs. J.C. McLean also held the office of District Director and has a Life membership in the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, given by the W.I. Constituency of Wainwright.

During the years we have tried to live up to our motto "For Home and Country" and in our associations with one another we have a fine spirit of friendliness, kindness and co-operation. We have supported many projects for the betterment of our village and district, as well as other projects farther afield when we thought them worthy of help. Perhaps the first project undertaken was to proclaim a Cemetery Day for the purpose of cleaning up the grounds.



Irma W.I. Mrs. Nancy Parke, Mrs. K. Nash, Mrs. W. Renwick, Mrs. Arthur Peterson, Mrs. A. Fischer, Mrs. Frank Peterson, Mrs. J.H. Archibald, Mrs. F. Thurston, Mrs. J.H. Rae, Mrs. W. Stuart, Mrs. Stougaard, Mrs. K. McLean, Mrs. T. Sanders, Mrs. Gwinn, Mrs. Locke, Mrs. H. Peterson, Mrs. Axel Peterson.

Later we decided to contact persons who we thought should be interested in the up-keep of our cemetery. Circular letters were sent out early in 1949 and a fund was started for this purpose. As this fund grew, we were able to hire a caretaker for the summer months. As the project became known, people commenced making memorial donations, all of which have helped the cause along, for which we are most grateful.

Another important undertaking was to raise money with which to purchase radium for the treatment of cancer patients. In 1938-1939 we raised one hundred dollars for this purpose. All the different branches were making this their project with the result that the Provincial W.I. presented two thousand dollars to the Minister of Health, with the request that this money be used to buy radium and that no charge be made to cancer patients when this radium was being used. At that time the government had about a similar amount invested in radium, so the decision was made that all radium treatments should be free. This was the beginning of free cancer treatments and it came about through the efforts of the Alberta Women's Institute members. In October, 1939 our branch was instrumental in organizing a branch of the Red Cross in Irma. During the war much work was turned out in the form of knitting, quilting and sewing.

From its very beginning the members realized the necessity of a Rest Room in the village for the use of mothers and children. With this project we needed the help of the council and they were hard to convince. In May, 1941 we commenced buying four dollar War Bonds. This continued for several years.



W.I. Grandmother's day 1930 at Howard Petersons.



About 1947, after several meetings with the Village council, they consented to build a Ladies' Rest Room. We cashed our Savings Certificates, added something to them, and were able to donate three hundred and fifty dollars to this project. We added furnishings, paid a janitor, gave more cash, and kept a general supervision as to its condition. We also received cash donations from other W.I. groups, Lodges, etc. to help us in this particular project.

In our earlier years we sponsored baby clinics and through the depression years we arranged for dental clinics that the children's teeth might be cared for. We also paid the expenses for three children to be sent to the Children's Red Cross Hospital in Calgary for much needed medical attention.

During the war years we were particularly busy. As well as the work done through the Red Cross we collected money to buy jam for Britain. We packed and sent a large number of ditty bags for the men of the Merchant Marine, sent food parcels overseas and sent cash for wool to the Navy League. During the Korean War we sent quilts and cash donations to aid the folk of that country, and also made contributions to Greece. At the present time we make cash donations to many worthwhile groups such as Multiple Sclerosis, Salvation Army, W.I. Girls' Club, and Red Cross. Neither do we forget the folk of our own neighborhood and much help has been given as the need arose, e.g. help to fire victims; National Geographic to Irma school for forty years; contributions to arena, curling rink, and New Horizons Club.

About fifteen years ago our branch discussed the matter of Scholarships. However, we decided it would be better to build up a fund to assist any of our young folk who might need help as they went on to higher education or some type of training. We approached the Home and School Association for their support in this venture and a committee consisting of Mr. Gunn and two members from each group was formed. The branch put in one hundred dollars as a starter and the Irma and District Students' Assistance Fund became a fact. Letters were sent to the different local organizations with the result that a healthy fund was soon built up. This fund has been a real benefit to many of our young folk as they have been able to borrow on their own signature, stating when and how it will be repaid. Because Alberta Women's Institute is an affiliate of the Associated Country Women of the World we have contributed to such projects as: a land rover for Lesotho, Africa; Pumps for Ethiopia and Water for all by 1990. The Unitarian Service Committee is helped with parcels of used clothing, homemade soap and cash.

Local projects include the Community Christmas Card Fund whereby a variety of charities receive up to five hundred dollars each year from the donations received.

In 1977 the three W.I. branches: Irma, Buffalo Coulee, and Strawberry Plains combined to sponsor the annual Daffodil Tea, the proceeds from which go to the Canadian Cancer Society and the W.W. Cross Hospital.

Each spring the Irma Branch takes the cart around to patients in the Auxiliary Hospital in Wainwright. Other



Irma Grandmother's Day.

community activities include the planting of flower boxes at the site of the W.I. sign board on main street. For some thirty years a float has been entered in the Irma Daze parade. Each Christmas shut-ins are remembered with a card and parcel of goodies. In the fall of each year we have our bazaar and raffle. This is our biggest money raising venture. In June we entertain the grandmothers. At least, that is how the day started out when grandmothers in our country were few and far between. Now that so many of us are in that category we celebrate United Nations Day with an ethnic dinner. Our W.I. is a non-political, non-racial, non-sectarian organization which is now fifty-six years old, and the welcome mat is out at all times to new members and visitors.



Irma W.I. about 1944.



Group of W.I. ladies, 1931.



Irma Women's Institute Meeting, 1941.

Grandmother's day, 1952, Irma W.I. Back Row, Left to Right: Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Knowles, Mrs. Carl Larson, Mrs. Zoost, Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Guillner, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Congdon, Mrs. Smallwood, Mrs. Knudson, Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Johnston. Front Row: Mrs. Black, Mrs. Rohrer, Mrs. McFarland, Mrs. Whidden, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Hurst, Mrs. McLean, Mrs. Robertson.



There are two kinds of people who don't say much, those who are quiet and those who talk a lot.

LADIES' ORANGE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

On March 16, 1932 a meeting was held in Hedley's Hall to institute a Ladies' Orange Benevolent Association Lodge in Irma. Twenty-two members were initiated at that time and duly installed as offices. Of these charter members, two are still in the Association in Irma, namely, Mrs. C.E. Fenton (Isabell) and Mrs. J. Jackson (Minnie). Mrs. E.W. Carter (May) was also a charter member of Irma Lodge. She is still with the Association, being a member of the Wainwright Lodge. Another very well-known member in the Irma Lodge was Mrs. Violet Herbert, also a charter member, who attended meetings regularly up until the time she moved to Wainwright. She departed from our midst in August, 1978.

Officers for the 1932-33 year were: Worthy Mistress - Mrs. Mazel Frickleton; Deputy Mistress - Mrs. May Long; Chaplain - Mrs. E. Yeend; Recording Secretary - Miss Harriet Nash; Financial Secretary - Mrs. Violet Herbert; Treasurer - Mrs. Georgina Enger; Director of Ceremonies - Mrs. Ada Pedel; Lecturers - Mrs. May Carter and Mrs. Verna Webb; 1st Committee - Mrs. Margaret Dunbar; 2nd Committee - Mrs. Sadie Glasgow; 3rd Committee - Mrs. Nora Jones; 4th Committee - Mrs. Vera Larson; 5th Committee - Mrs. Minnie Jackson; Guardian - Mrs. Isabell Fenton; Past Mistress - Mrs. M.D. Askin.

The meetings were held every month in Hedley's Hall until 1953 when the Lodge moved to the Legion Hall, as Hedley's Hall and Post Office were taken over by the government. As of June, 1967, meetings have been held in members' homes to save expenses. The membership in the Association remained around twenty for several years. Some of the members transferred to other towns, had their certificates placed on file or just dropped out. Some found it quite hard to keep their dues paid in earlier Lodge days and some were unable to attend regularly, especially those who lived in the country. It was a problem to keep the membership up some years due to the financial difficulties. On one annual report it was noted under "Members Deceased for Year" the secretary had written "*Too Hard Up To Die*".

Flowers and fruit were sent to those who were in hospital or sick enough to have a doctor in attendance. Flowers were bought at that time from the store for 75¢. Members who got married or had a baby were given a gift on the occasion.

The Ladies' Orange Benevolent Association used various ways to raise money. Dances were the main means of raising funds. New Year's Eve, Valentine's, St. Patrick's, Hallowe'en and Cowboy Yodel Contest Dances were held for several years. Decorations were usually put up for these, sometimes very kindly donated by the stores. Admission to the dances were 25¢ a couple or 15¢ for single. The price went up in later years to 50¢ for gents and 25¢ for ladies. The orchestra was often just a three-piece one that charged \$1.00 apiece for the evening. Three members of one orchestra who played for many of the dances were Mrs. C. Pyle, Mr. Ernie Rae and Mr. Jim Kennedy.

Plays were another way they raised money. Members of the Lodge would form a committee and be responsible for presenting a play. They travelled to other towns, also, and put on plays. Other interested town people also helped out. When the Association sponsored plays followed by a dance, which was often the case, one could attend both for 35¢ if an adult, 25¢ if a student and 10¢ if a child. Whist drives and card parties were held, mostly in the winter months. These were also often followed by a dance. Teas and raffles were held. Comforters, cushions or fruit cake were some of the prizes. At least once a year a chicken supper was held. Charge for this was 50¢ for adults and 35¢ for children. A house-to-house canvass was held in 1938 to raise money to send to the Protestant Home in Edmonton. Often not much money was made, but the members still struggled on and continued to provide entertainment for many.

Throughout the fifty years since the Ladies' Orange Benevolent Association has been chartered, they have given assistance to many various causes. However, their main goal is in assisting underprivileged and handicapped people. Assistance during the fifty years includes donations to the following:

- Orange Relief Fund in 1941 to help War victims.
- Relief Fund in Irma in 1943 to help buy wool batts to make blankets.
- Helped with Welcome Home Banquet for returned men in April, 1946.
- B.C. Flood Committee to aid flood victims.
- Toronto Disaster Fund to help victims of Hurricane Hazel.
- Bibles to Britain.
- Assisted a village girl to secure a job and outfitted her with proper clothing for same.
- Red Cross.



Early Irma Orangeman's Day.

- To members and their families in need due to illness.
- Ulster House in Calgary for treatment of cancer patients.
- Home Trust Fund which was started by the Calgary Lodges. Through this fund, cash donations were given to the Wood's Christian Home for Children in Calgary. The Irma Lodge received the Shield four times for the highest donations given for a year in the province. Money, clothing, bedding or household effects have been given to fire victims in the district. More donations and assistance has also been given to:
- Irma Churches.
- Cubs and Scouts Group Committee to help with their Centennial projects.
- Irma Cub and Scout Packs.
- Loan to Irma Curling Club for artificial ice plant.
- Prepaid rent to Legion for funds to install water in the hall.
- New Horizons Club.
- Irma School Band to help with expenses for Band suits.
- Irma W.I. to help with expenses of caretaker of restroom.
- Children's Ward in the Mannville Hospital.
- 1st Irma Brownie Pack and 1st Irma Guide Company.
- Place a hemodialysis unit in the Children's Ward of the University Hospital.
- To help the Orange Foundation for Children give a generous donation to the Navy League in Wainwright for the purchase of Band instruments.
- Evelyn Unger school in Edmonton.
- Alberta Society for Visually Impaired.
- The Oakhill Foundation.
- and many, many more too numerous to mention.

The Irma Lodge is presently sponsoring the 1st Irma Brownie Pack. They are, once again, offering a trophy or plaque to the Brownie with the highest achievement for the year.

For years the Irma Ladies' Orange Benevolent Association supported the Alberta Protestant Home for Children in Edmonton, which was founded in 1935. Clothing, bedding, linen, food and money were donated to this cause several times. In 1964 the Alberta Protestant Home for Children to receive tax exemption. In 1967 the Government closed the Home on the principle that it was better to place children in foster homes.

More recently, through the efforts of the Irma Lodge, assistance was given to a twelve year old girl who had come to Alberta with her mother from England. When they arrived in Edmonton the girl required medical attention and hospitalization for quite a period of time. With no Health Care coverage, it was obvious that assistance would be appreciated. At present, as they have for several years now, the Irma Lodge gives their assistance to the Bethany Home for Children at Gwynne. Clothing has been taken down on several occasions. Money and children's gifts have been sent regularly at Christmastime. The Rev. and Mrs. Dan Jespersen have been the "House Parents" since the summer of 1979. Dan and his wife, Vi, and family were Irma residents for a time.

Members of the Irma Lodge served on the Board of Directors for the Alberta Protestant Home or became Officers of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alberta.

The first member of the Lodge to serve on the Board for the Home was Mrs. E.W. Carter, who served in that



Irma Orange Parade about 1930.

capacity for several years. Following this, Mrs. M. Jackson served on the Board from 1952 until the closing of the Home.

Mrs. May Long was the first member of the Irma Lodge to become a Grand Lodge Officer in 1936. In 1940, Mrs. Carter was elected as Grand Lecturer and in 1949 she was the Provincial Grand Mistress. In later years others became Grand Lodge Officers. In 1953, Mrs. Jackson was elected to the office of Grand Auditor and in 1959 was Grand Mistress and Mrs. C. Russell was elected Grand Auditor. In 1964 and in 1967 Mrs. Jackson was elected Grand Secretary. In 1974 she left the office of Grand Secretary and moved up to the office of Right Worshipful Grand Junior Deputy Mistress. She then was elected to the office of Right Worshipful Grand Mistress of Alberta in 1976. Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Russell all are Past Grand Mistresses of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alberta. In March, 1957, Mrs. V. Herbert, became an Honorary Member of the Irma Lodge. In June, 1964, Mrs. I. Fenton also became an Honorary Member. Mrs. Herbert was an Honorary Member of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alberta as is Mrs. Fenton.

In March of 1967 (Centennial Year), the Irma Lodge held a birthday party to celebrate thirty-five years as a Lodge. The three charter members were honored with a gift from their Lodge. Invitations were sent to all old Lodge members, several of whom were in attendance. In 1972, as well as celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the village, the Irma Lodge also celebrated their 40th Anniversary. In the spring of 1982, a 50th Anniversary celebration was planned in conjunction with an Apron Tea. It was planned for April, honoring the two remaining Charter members. Presentation of their 50-Year Service Pins took place at the tea. 25-Year Service Pins have been presented to Mrs. M. Jackson, Mrs. I. Fenton, Mrs. Herbert, Mrs. M. Lovig, Mrs. E. Tindall, Mrs. I. Bartholow and Mrs. C. Russell. Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Fenton also received their 35-Year Pins.

It is interesting to note that Violet Herbert missed only 31 meetings out of 284, from March 16th, 1932 until, and including 1955. She never missed one meeting from the start of 1956 up to, and including July, 1971 - a total of 1980 meetings. After moving to Wainwright she was unable to get up to the meetings. Out of 569 meetings in 50 years, Minnie Jackson has missed 76 meetings and Isabell Fenton has missed 63 meetings, a pretty good record for all those years!

The lodge now has few members. Officers for 1982 are: Minnie Jackson - Worth Mistress (1975-present); Isabell Fenton - Deputy Mistress (since 1967); Chaplain Mabel Lovig (since 1975); Christine Russell - Director of Ceremonies (since 1975); Shirley Lovig - Secretary-Treasurer (14th year as secretary, 12th year as treasurer); Isabell Bartholow - Junior Deputy Mistress; Eldred Tindall - Lecturer.

In addition to members previously mentioned there are about forty-six others who have been members of the Association in Irma. Some have passed on, others have transferred or moved away.

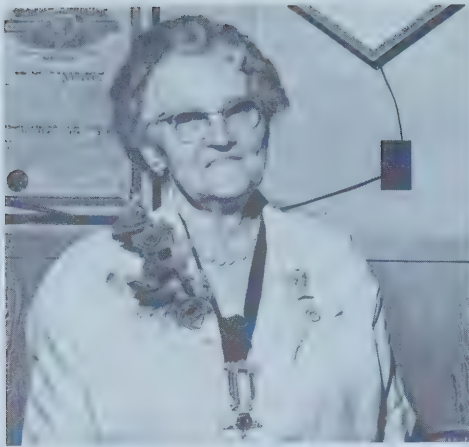
MARTHA CHAPTER NO. 124 ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

At the time Martha Chapter was organized in Irma a number of members already belonged at neighborhood Chapters. The members we are indebted to are Anna McFarland and Nellie Scott who belonged to Nina while Elsie Coultman, Donna Firkus, Meg Dunbar and Elizabeth Prior belonged to Connaught Chapter in Wainwright. Edith Cockroft was a member of Amity Chapter in Edmonton while Louis and Verdun Anderson were members of Windsor Chapter in Leduc. Thus on February 2, 1959 our Chapter was instituted as Martha Chapter No. 124. The officers for the new Chapter were Nellie Scott as Worthy Matron and Louis Anderson as Worthy Patron. A total of twenty-seven members signed the new by-laws as charter members. Selecting a name came from the Star Points - Martha was the only one not being used. The original Star Chapter in Irma used the "Sunrise Chapter". On September 19, 1959 we were formally constituted under Sister Ellen Armstrong and Brother Norman Luke's leadership. Throughout our twenty-five year history we have had fellowship within our own Chapter walls as well as with our fellow "Star" members. During our twenty-fifth anniversary year of 1984 with Marian Fischer as Worthy Matron and Richard Glasgow as Worthy Patron, we held our anniversary party on February 3. We were happy to have thirteen of the original charter members with us for the celebrations. Throughout the years our members have been chosen by Grand Chapter to be Grand Officers, namely; Nellie Scott as Grand Martha and Marian Fischer as Grand Esther. Assistant Grand Sentinels have been Brothers Ole Nissen, Len Liddell and Richard Glasgow. To help at Grand Chapter Sessions as Grand Pages have been Sisters Verdun Anderson, Verla Belton, Marian Fischer and Maureen Currie. A number of members have lent their voices each Session for the Grand Choir. Visiting has always played an important part to our Chapter through our Grand Representatives. Sisters honored this way have been Nellie Scott, Edith Cockroft, Elsie Coultman, Phyllis Craig, Edith Wilson, Ruby Taylor, Lois Jack and Verdun Anderson. Star has always been ready to help with community projects like cooking pancake breakfasts for Irma Days or giving monies to local projects such as our ladies' restroom, Irma Band, and to national requests such as the Heart Fund, Rheumatic Society and others as well as supporting our own Eastern Star Homes.

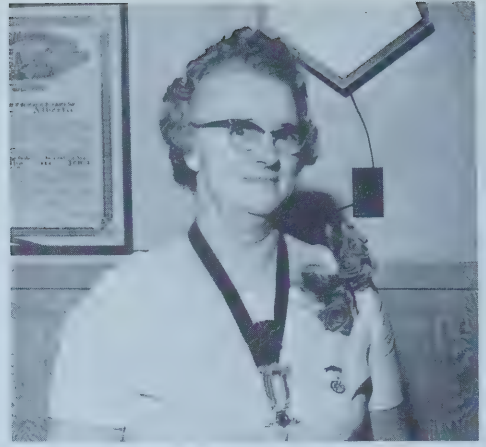
To the future, we trust we can continue on with many more years of fellowship in Star.

SEAT OF THE MATTER

*When dieting always remember,
Just to be fair,
That what's on the table
Soon becomes what's on the chair.*



Worthy Matron Sister Nellie Scott - 1960.



Worthy Matron Sister Elsie Coulman - 1961.



Worthy Patron Bro. Louis Anderson - 1960.



Worthy Patron Bro. Robert Dempsey - 1961.



Official Visit - 1976. Worthy Grand Matron Jane Salisbury, W.M. Edith Wilson, W.P. Albert Glasgow, Worthy Grand Patron Sam Slater.



Worthy Matron Sister Anna McFarland - 1964.

THE RED CROSS

The ladies of Irma and district formed a Red Cross Association at the beginning of World War One. They knitted, made bandages and sent parcels to the Irma soldiers overseas. The girls helped by writing letters to the soldiers. In March of 1918 a great auction sale which included livestock, furniture, quilts, a bicycle, and farm and garden produce raised the sum of twelve hundred and fifteen dollars for the Red Cross. When World War Two began the Red Cross was revived and they began knitting and bandage rolling again. They met in the Legion Hall with their sewing machines and made pyjamas, children's clothes, quilts and comforters. The money for the materials was raised by holding dances and by donations. Following the end of the war they did not disband and instead of meetings they continued sewing, carried out the annual drive for donations and made arrangements for the Blood Donor Clinics. They are no longer active but these ladies can be found in some other worthwhile organization.

During World War Two the Strawberry Plains district had an active Red Cross group who met every two weeks to make quilts and they also sent parcels overseas. Some other districts also carried out Red Cross work.

Schools had active Junior Red Cross groups, some holding dances and card parties to help with the war victims' program. In recent years the grade three class in the Irma school under the leadership of Mrs. Millar and Mrs. Astley had collected stamps and coupons and raised money by other ways to donate to the Red Cross. In the last few years the class has produced a small cook book which has proved a community favorite, the money raised is donated to the Red Cross.

Echoes from the Sale.

J. W. Wyatt purchased a bicycle at the sale, apparently he is going to take no chances on the Ford.

We wonder what Bill Mathews is going to do with the tea strainer.

B. Thompson paid \$3.50 for a bag of seed potatoes. We hope they will be worth that much next fall.

Wonder if Mary Elliott can wear the suit she bought at the Red Cross sale.

Riley Goodrich bought \$6.50 pillows at the sale, to be hoped he don't use them too long in the mornings.

Rumor has it that Joe Hardy intends starting a chicken ranch as he cornered the egg market at the Red Cross sale.

Red Cross Notes 1917

A number of ladies under the direction of Mrs. Crocker, the local Sec-Treas., ran a refreshment booth at the picnic held on May 30th. The proceeds of which were devoted to the Red Cross Fund.

The total amount taken was \$111.20.
Donation by G.A. Tripp \$3.00

..... \$114.20
Paid for goods \$51.15

Balance \$63.05

The balance of \$63.05 was forwarded to headquarters

ROSEBERRY UNIFORM LOCAL 72-04

Roseberry Uniform had its beginning in the 1930's when a group of farmers began meeting in the Battle Heights School as Battle Heights F.U.A. Due to lack of membership it was decided in the early forties to change the meeting place to Roseberry School in order to attract new members from the district. At that time the president was Bill Crabb, with Jack Taylor as secretary-treasurer.

Over the years the area covered by the organization has been enlarged but the original object of improving the farming industry and the community has remained the same. Although the earlier minute books have not been located, we find that in 1948 delegates went to district and provincial conventions, with delegates reporting the following month, a policy that has been continued through the years. In July 1949, the first recorded picnic and dance was sponsored at Roseberry School, with the picnic becoming an annual district get-together until two years ago.

The name of Battle Heights F.U.A. was changed to Roseberry F.U.A. in May, 1955, with meetings continuing to be held in Roseberry Hall until July, 1958. At that time it was decided to hold meetings in the homes of the members. In 1963 Roseberry F.U.A. invested \$100.00 in a debenture for artificial ice in Irma, began sponsoring a junior member to Goldeye Lake Camp and produced and presented a play in Irma, Passchendale and Wainwright. In 1964 the members has a curling bonspiel, which continued annually for six years. Many district men and women have served the Roseberry Local faithfully and very well as presidents and secretary-treasurers. With the change of name of the provincial organization, Roseberry F.U.A. became Roseberry Uniform Local 72-04 with Eugene Meyer as president and Joe Oracheski as secretary-treasurer. Following their turn of office Cliff Firkus became president and Cliff Wakefield served as secretary-treasurer.

Shortly after this the meetings became so poorly attended, with each member busy with other activities that the local has become inactive.



Social evening at the home of J.C. McLean, Irma, August 22, 1945. Back Row, Left to Right: Ethel Tate, Bob Simmermon, Evelyn Elford, Charlie De Tro, Marjorie MacFarland, ?, Marion Carrington, Ivan Hardy, Mary Jones, Bob Smith, Fred Jack. Middle Row: Aletha Knudson, Stella Arnold, Tid Hardy, Lois Jack, Betty (McLean) Locke, Ethel Arnold. Front Row: Vera Simmermon, Edna Arnold, Jacqueline Tate.

A FEATURE PLAY

(Not a Movie)

"The Two Orphan Sisters"

by the

Richard Kent Stock Co.

Kiefer's Theatre

Irma

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Dance After the Show.
1940



Mayor Walter Littlewood and President Donald Gunn - opening of Drop-In Centre.



The cast of a 3 act play "The Old Maids' Convention" staged by the Irma Ladies' Aid under the direction of May Carter. Three ladies in front row on right are Winnie Riley, Georgina Enger and Marjorie Arnold. Others in play were Ann McFarland, Alice Fletcher, Janie Black, Mrs. Knudson, May Long, -- Cairns, Isabel Hutchinson and others.

MRS. MARGARET N. C. HIGGINS
Graduate Nurse of the
Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal
Charges \$3.00 per Day
Phone No. 59-1931 Irma, Alta.

You couldn't please some people if you gave them the job of cooking for angels.

Drop-In Centre opening. Phyllis Craig, Alma Enger, Peggy Flemming, Lily Simmermon, Marjorie Fischer, Georgina Enger, Minnie Jackson, Edith Wilson, Edith Gunn, John Lambert, Ludvig Satre, Gordon Wilson, Adelaide Dootson and Elsie Satre.



CHAPTER 7

A WAY OF LIFE





Elmer and John Erickson in 1913 in front of the Lisson home.



Jim Bronson's sod house.

A father is a person who forks over a few thousand for his daughter's wedding and then reads in the paper that he gave her away.



The sod shack which Bill and George Pedel lived in from 1921-1926.



Mrs. J.G. Rae and daughter, Margaret.

If we had to go back

(by an unknown pioneer)

*As we dream of the little sod shanty
That stood all alone on the plain,
And sing of its virtues and blessings,
Nor think of its hardships and pain.
As we tell of its romantic beauty,
Or enlarge on the size of that shack,
It wouldn't be quite so entrancing,
If we knew that we had to go back.*

*As memory twines 'round its shelter,
Forgotten are sorrows and tears,
But joys of its humble enchantment
Grow dearer and sweeter with years;
We cherish each bit of a story
That clings 'round the little old shack
But we'd hardly be happy in knowing
That tomorrow we had to go back.*

*That little old shack on the prairie,
How memory takes us once more
To scenes that we lovingly cherish,
To joys that we live as of yore.
And yet, though we cherish it fondly;
That dear little sod-covered shack.
We'd hardly be glad if tomorrow,
We knew that we had to go back.*



First home of Ted and Eileen Prior in 1936.

GRANDPA'S FARM

*Why would anyone live on a farm?
My Grandpa once told me why:
You wake at dawn, put some strong coffee on,
Look out at a bright morning sky!*

*You start chores early, work hard and long
At planting or milking or such.
But at the day's end, when quiet has come,
You know you've seen God's perfect touch!*

*You've worked for Him, as much as for you,
To plow His fields, and when
You watch the harvest yield its fruit
You thank Him again and again!*

*A farm may not be the only place
To live, to grow and die -
But my grandpa said, "It's the only place
I'd ever suggest you try."*



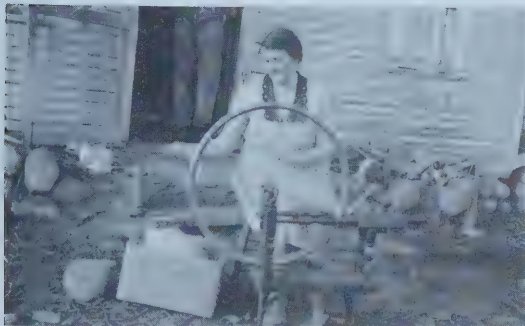
Don McCready churning butter in 1910.



John Marshall on New Year's Day, 1956.



Tending the fowl, note old lantern on shed.



Mrs. Thurston spinning wool on a spinning wheel built by Cap Larson in 1936.



Bob Love with Al and Jay Fenton in 1960. Note the solar-power clothes dryer, no lawn mower.



Marie (Webb) with Mrs. Renwick in 1940.



Carrie Brown and Jenny Shippy just done milking.



Irene and Mary Dootson in 1941.



*Mamie Kellar and brother milking her cow.
One thing about baldness - it's neat!*



*Mrs. Cap Larson and friend milking the goat.
Old mufflers never die, they just get exhausted.*



Claude Shippy at milking time feeding the cat with children, Nérine, Fern and Vance.



W. Elliott feeding pigs in 1913.

Washing Ain't Like It Used to Be!

I'VE BEEN saving this old clipping that I enjoy reading now and then. Maybe your readers would enjoy it, too.

It's a letter that a pioneer woman wrote to her newly married daughter regarding "how to wash clothes."

1. Build a fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water.

2. Set tubs so smoke won't blow in your eyes if the wind is pert.

3. Shave one hole cake lie sope in biling water.

4. Sort things. Make 3 piles. 1 pile white, 1 pile cullord, 1 pile britches and rags.

5. Stir flour in cold water to smooth, then thin down with biling water.

6. Rub dirty spots on board, then bile. Rub cullord but don't bile. Just rench and starch.

7. Take white things out of kettle with broom handel, then rench, blew and starch.

8. Spread tee towels on grass.

9. Hang old rags on fense.

10. Pour rench water in flower bed.

11. Scrub porch with sopy water.

12. Turn tubs upside down.

13. Go put on clean dress. Smooth hair with side combs.

Brew cup of tee, set and rest and rock a spell and count blessins.



Bessie Ambler in her garden.

The Farmer...

**There's lots of satisfaction
In watching gardens grow—
The beans, the peas, the cabbages,
The corn, row after row.**

**There's lots of pride and pleasure
In raising livestock, too—
The hogs, the sheep, the cattle...
There's lots of work to do.**

**It takes a world of patience
And lots of faith, as well;
It takes a bit of know-how
As anyone can tell.**

**But oh, it's really worth it all,
For in your heart you know
You wouldn't change the smallest
part
Of being where things grow.**

**The sun, the soil, the tillage,
The showers of rain that fall—
A harvest that is bountiful
Depends upon them all.**

**The man who makes a living
By the turning of the sod
Has peace, contentment and,
what's more,
A partnership with God!**



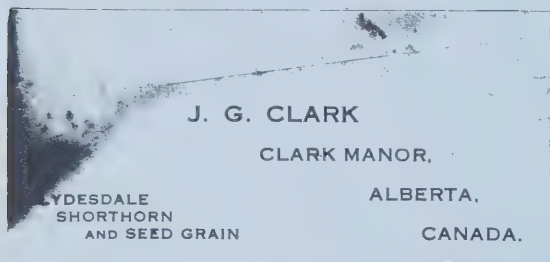
Whidden barn in the making in 1917.



Maggie O'Neill feeding calves in 1919.



Mrs. Cap Larson feeding her chickens in 1930.



J. G. CLARK

CLARK MANOR,

ALBERTA,

LYDESDALE
SHORTHORN
AND SEED GRAIN

CANADA.



Aunt Goldia Herrick and her turkeys.



Mrs. Sarah Miles in 1935 at Irma.

My White Wvandottes won all
firsts at the Irma fair last year
My Pen of Barred Rocks won
all first prizes at the Irma fair
last year.

Setting Eggs for sale from
these birds

Barred Rocks \$1.50 for 13

White Wvandottes \$2.00

W. Lewis Mildon, Jr.

Irma
APRIL 1920

QUALITY OF LIFE

*Leave the dishes in the sink -
Believe me, they will wait
While we watch the setting sun
Beyond the garden gate.*

*Don't tarry over petty things
That fritter your life away;
Hurry instead to watch the geese
As dawn breaks into day.*

*Leave the laundry in the tub,
Turn the supper fires down low,
And let's walk in the woodland,
In the pale moon's silver glow.*

*Let us taste the honey,
And drink deeply of the wine
Of life's richness and blessings
That today are yours and mine.*

*Chickens and people are alike in that the more you give
them the less they scratch themselves.*

Review of Western Markets

1933

CATTLE

Beef—Edmonton market steady to shade stronger with buyers bidding freely; quality better. Choice heavy steers \$3@3.25; choice light \$3.25@3.75; good \$3@3.50; medium \$2.50@3; common at \$1.50@2.25. Choice heifers \$3.25@3.50; good sorts \$3@3.25. Choice cows over the scales at \$2@2.25; good \$1.75@2; medium \$1.50@1.75; common \$1@1.25, and canners and cuttlers 50c@1. Choice bulls brought \$1.25@1.50; medium \$1@1.25; canners from 50c up. Choice light calves made \$4.50@5, and common \$2@3. FEEDERS—STOCKERS—More action in this section this week. Feeder steers from \$1.50@2.50; stock steers \$1.50@2.50; stock heifers \$1.50@2.50; stock cows from 75c@1.50.

HOGS

Edmonton reports higher prices. Bacons making \$4.10@5.20; selects \$4.60@4.70; and butchers \$3.60@3.70, fed and watered basis.

SHEEP

Quotations at Edmonton show lambs a shade up. Yearlings \$2@3.35; ewes \$1@2; lambs from \$2@4.50.

CREAM—BUTTER—MILK

CREAM—Supplies increasing steadily since the weather improved. Prices unchanged: Special, 18c; first, 16c; second, 13c, at country point and centralizing plants. CREAMERY BUTTER—Sales for No. 2 and No. 3 print butter very good, but No. 1 prints and cartons somewhat slower. Undertone firm. Prices steady: No. 1 cartons, 26c; No. 2, 25c; No. 1 prints 25c; No. 2, 24c; No. 3, 23c. DAIRY

BUTTER—Good demand for fancy table, but little offered. Fair amount of lower grades, but no outlet; prices unchanged at: Fancy table 18c; No. 1, 10c; No. 2, 8c. MILK—Receipts heavy and plenty offered to meet requirements. Prices steady: Edmonton, \$1.75; Calgary, \$1.50, per 100 lbs., basis 3.6 delivered.

POULTRY—EGGS

POULTRY—Very little offered. Fowl seems to be in fair shape, but roosters are staggy. Demand slow; prices steady: Fowl, No. 1, 6c; No. 2, 4c. Stags, No. 1, 5c; No. 2, 3@4c; roosters, 2@3c. EGGS—Market given sudden setback this week, when extras dropped to 12c; firsts, 10c; seconds, 6@7c. Market appears to be flooded with offerings since weather improved. Steady increases expected, and little or no outlet. Direct sellers again operating through housewives and retail merchants.

HAY—FEED OATS—GREENFEED

HAY—Carload lot movement still slow; offerings fairly liberal. Prices steady: Upland, \$7; timothy \$7@9, on track at country points. Calgary loose hay market quotes upland, baled, \$9; loose, \$8 per ton, delivered, and reports fairly good supply and outlet. FEED OAT—Market draggy and offerings only arriving when buyer located. Price steady at 15c per bushel, delivered. GREENFEED—Trade draggy, and although offerings still bringing \$6 per ton delivered, undertone of market very weak. Stocks in country are liberal and buyers are not active.



Harold Dootson and a pig, freshly butchered.



Wilma Currie with two orphan colts, due to their mothers having had sleeping sickness.



Lockharts going picking potatoes, Father, Mother, Floyd, Hazel, Mabel, Cecil.

February 4, 1921 - Irma farmers formed a branch of the Canadian Seed Growers Association with the following members: T. Sellers, A. Blakely, H. Kasten, G. Clarke, James Fenton, W. Stewart, N.T. Knudson, Kasten Bros., J.K. Erickson, M.E. Wood, J.R. Love, O. Steffenson, J. Hubbs and H.W. Love.

MEMORIES

by Genon Astley - Irma Soneff:

Many are the memories I recall of life in Batt Valley.

Sunday School picnics held on the David Whidden's spacious lawn, when we'd weigh ourselves before and after eating to see how much we'd gained. One year I remember we went to Camp Lake in the back of Holt's big truck, only to run into mud on the way home (no gravel roads in those days) and nearly went into the ditch on a high clay grade.

Christmas concerts were a real highlight and excitement mounted from the day the parts were assigned until the stage went up and curtains hung. The climax came on concert night when with hair curled, new dresses and white stockings (no long underwear that night) we performed our best. Candy bags made by our mothers out of green or red net always had an orange, a real treat, as well as hard candy and lots of nuts. I recall a year when real candles were lit on the Christmas tree.

Winter saw snowball fights and snow forts while spring brought sliding on the ice on a slough south of the school.

Spring also meant earning a few pennies paid by the Municipal District for collecting crow and magpie eggs and feet, as well as gopher tails. I never realized what a distasteful job this was for the teacher to count all these near rotten bounties till I had the same task in my early years of teaching.

Irma School Fair was also an exciting time when we entered school work, baking, sewing, garden produce or livestock. What a thrill to have a prize tag on an entry!

Jarrow Sports Day, always held on June 3rd, was another memorable event with ball games, races, ice-cream and hot dogs. Batt school picnics bring back memories of ball games, races plus the potluck supper, often with home-made ice-cream.

Who can forget the excitement when George and Stan Bridgeman arrived with their threshing outfit. What a busy time preparing food for the hungry crew. It was fun to take lunch to the field and watch the golden grain pour into the bin and straw come puffing out of the blower. How everyone hoped the wind would not change so all the straw could be blown into one stack.

Every spring Grandma Whidden (Mrs. David Whidden) would bring little clumps of "Johnny-Jump-Ups" for us to take home and plant in our flowerbeds. These flowers with their bright little faces brought happiness to many.



May and Bert Long "scuffling" the garden.



Ella and Ira Skiles on the farm - the Sheep year. Feeding lambs with the bottle.



Beautiful garden grown by Mary Barss.



Evelyn and Frances White picking strawberries.

METRIC CLICHES

Give him 2.54 centimeters and he takes 1,609 meters.

Traffic was 2.54 centimetering along the avenue.

It hit me like 907 kilograms of bricks.

Missed it by 1,609 country meters.

A milligram of salt.

Beat him within 2.54 centimeters of his life.

28.3 grams of prevention is worth 0.456 kilograms of cure.



Berry picking time - looks like a good saskatoon crop.



Claude Ramsay dunking a hog to scald the bristles off about 1951.

NO BREAD LINE ON THE FARM MAY 1, 1931

When a spell of hard times hits us
With a smash between the eyes,
When the whole world looks so
gloomy,
Not a star shines in the skies;
Day by day we're gettin' poorer,
Future fills us with alarm,
Let's sit d own and just be thankful
There's no bread line on the farm.

When our clothes get w orn and faded,
And no mon to purchase more,
When our pocket book is empty
And the wolf howls at the door;
There may be some compensation,
Life may still hold quite a charm,
Livin' way out in the country;
There's no bread line on the farm.

Have some more cream on your oat-
meal,
Plenty milk, drink all you please;
Don't be stingy with the butter,
Pass around the cottage cheese.
Ham and bacon in the skillet,
Plenty beef and pork to roast,
Plates heaped high with golden-muf-
fins,
And delicious graham toast.

Home grown wheat in all our baking,
Home grown corn meal in the mush,
Cellar filled with spuds and cabbage,
Onions, carrots, beets and such.
Baked potatoes in the oven,
What a sight for hungry eyes,
Oh, such sauerkraut and spare ribs.
Home made mince and pumpkin pies.

Though our prices be demoralized,
And we must economize,
Though prosperity's abolished,
Not for long, we realize;
Though 'tis hard to pay our taxes,
There's no reason for alarm,
Let's just go to work a singin'
"There's no bread line on the farm."



Fred S. White in 1947, pumping water.



Jack and Leslie Ballentine making ice cream.



Nate Fuder barn.

REMINISCENCES

by Adelaide Dootson

Highlights of summer in my childhood that come to mind are:

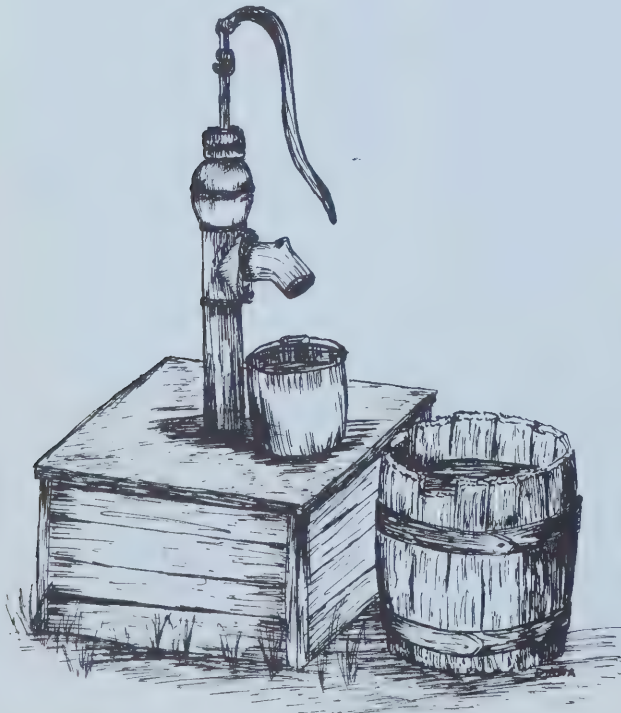
The Annual Birthday Party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Watson of the Ross school district. Having no children of their own, the parties were started because of their niece Christina Cameron. Many children in the district and their friends and mothers looked forward to this event. Mr. Watson and helpers always made a large freezer of ice cream, a rarity to most children at that time.

Chautauqua, a travelling acting and musical group, made an annual appearance for several years. Their large tent was set up on the fair grounds.

The Irma Agricultural Fair with such a good display of livestock etc. Much visiting among our mothers at this event.

In August we always looked forward to the birthday party at the R.W. Patterson home. At that time the Colin McLean and Patterson homes were in the same yard. The three Patterson children, Marney, Bill and Catherine (Tid) celebrated. What a good afternoon we had. I remember the nickels or dimes Grandma McCauley would have in the birthday cake.

I think back to the sport we had as school children in the 1920's. Our games were: Run Sheep Run, Red Light, Fox and Goose, softball, football, hopscotch, skipping, marbles, anti-i-over, foot races, kite flying, and bows and arrows until one almost tragic incident using a shingle nail in the arrow. If you could call it sport, we also snared gophers with store string or binder twine or drowned them out. A good deal of water to carry for the latter.



Roger Dootson helping Mother fill woodbox in 1956.



"At home day" at the McLean Ranch - 1909.

In this day of tap water and so much emphasis on cleanliness, germs etc. I remember in our school days, where there wasn't a well in the school grounds someone had to carry water. A galvanized pail and a long handled dipper were used. In spite of as many as nine grades in the school, we weren't conscious of any germs being passed from one to another.

Another incident I recall that happened in the early 20's. My Grandpa (J.H.) Elliott was coming home from Irma one evening when a thunder storm came up. When he was in the vicinity of the Alma Mater, school a bolt of lightning struck the horse and killed it. Grandpa fortunately was only stunned and when he came to he walked to Angus McMillans (where Ruby MacMillan lives now) for help. Grandpa was the first Weed Inspector in the area. He travelled many miles with horse and buggy.

Many of the pioneer ladies took time to help with the ill or to act as midwives when necessary. Ones that come to mind are Mrs. Merry, Mrs. J. Marshall and Mrs. Renwick. At that time Dr. McGregor was kept very busy as there were many miles to cover by horse or horses and buggy. As an example, on July 6, 1913 (an extremely hot day I was told) three babies made their entry into the Irma district. Murray McKillop in the Strawberry Plains district, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Huffman's infant in the Sunny Brae district, and myself, Adelaide (Elliott) Dootson in the Education Point district. Mrs. E. Costin and Mary Elliott were in attendance at our house. Much credit is due our doctors and any ladies who chose to help out in the many emergencies. In later years Mrs. Orton helped. With no close hospitals many people turned to the large black covered "Doctor Book".



Loring home with all the family and the teacher - Miss Rutherford.



Sawing wood. Left to Right: Harry Riley, Tom Yarr, Jack Burton, A.C. Charter.



Cliff Bruneau hauling wood with horse and sleigh in 1930's.

Wood-Cutting Day

"Turn up the thermostat a bit, the house feels rather cold"
That's how we heat our homes today, not so in times of old!

Then trees were cut down with an axe, a goodly year's supply,
The trunks unbranched and then hauled home and left in piles to dry.
Some clear cold day with harvest done, the neighbors understood
They all must take a turn to help saw up the winter's wood.

The old Ford car supplied the power and when the wicked blade
Became a blur of shining steel, a humming sound it made.
Two men picked up the heavy logs and one man fed the saw,
Another threw the chunks of wood. The children watched in awe
The greedy whirring of the blade, the whizz, the whirl, the clang,
As sharp teeth bit into the wood until the car-drums rang.
"Whing! Whing!" this meant a slender rail or sapling, like as not,
"K-whaaang! K-whaaang!" a heavy log, "Rrrr-rrr" a stubborn knot.

The poplar sawdust's pungent smell, the fumes from the exhaust
Were so delightful to a nose that tingled with the frost.
The womenfolk outdid themselves to serve a hearty meal,
It made a welcome pause for both the men and automobile.
Around the kitchen table where each was an honored guest.
They laughed and told their anecdotes and aired the well-worn jest.
Then back to work with renewed strength till early set of sun;
Each neighbor went home satisfied at one more task well done.

Progress has made so many things unreal and far away,
But Pioneers remember still the old Wood-Cutting Days!



Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Hill with Fred Hill driving.



Clarence Costin house.

THE MANY ROLES OF A HOMEMAKER

She is the *secretary-treasurer*, who writes the business and social letters, keeps the family accounts and pays the bills. As *chief-chef*, she plans the menus and prepares the meals, while acting in the role of *purchasing agent*, she buys the groceries, clothing, furnishings and countless other items every family needs. Of course, as *laundress*, she gathers, sorts, washes and irons clothes on a frequent schedule.

She is the family *nurse*, who takes temperatures, prepares hot water bottles and ice packs, bandages cut fingers and soothes frayed tempers. As the *teacher*, she guides the youngsters in their choice of books, music, and activities; while in the role of *counselor*, she must answer questions and advise all the family members. She is *companion* to her husband and children, while enjoying family activities.

She is the *seamstress*, who sews on the bottoms and makes new garments; the *food processor*, who makes pickles and jelly, freezes the vegetables and cans the meat. As *gardener*, she plants the flowers, weeds the beds, and mows the lawn; and as *maintenance manager*, she sees that household repairs are made, and plans the weekly cleaning schedule.

The *chauffeur* who drives the family to attend many functions, is also the *community member*, who takes an active part in church and community projects. She is the *electrical engineer*, who operates and maintains the many household appliances, and the *partner*, who often helps to provide some of the family income through outside employment.

She is the *mediator*, who arranges compromises, the *decision maker*, who helps to decide about the new car, a new wardrobe, the annual holidays and which show to attend. As *hostess*, she entertains her husband's boss, the minister and his wife, as well as friends and relatives. She is the *spark plug*, who arouses interest in family projects, and the *coordinator* of most of the family activities.



1910 - Talk about beasts of burden!



Hauns going to town with the cream in 1917, Burton, John, Edward, Gladys and Helena.



Grace Hall, notice lovely high button boots.



Grandpa and helper at the kitchen range and wood box.



Stella and Ethel Arnold feeding young turkeys.

RECIPES FROM THE 1928 COOK BOOK

submitted by the ladies of the Avondale local

QUICK POTATO YEAST

- 3 potatoes
- 1 1/2 quarts boiling water
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 pint flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cakes yeast

Pour water over flour, stirring it. Add the boiled potatoes which have been put through a sieve. Add sugar, salt, and soaked yeast. Put all through sieve and let stand two days. Use one pint of above yeast to three pints of liquid. If kept in a cool place in air tight container will keep four weeks.

Mrs. R.D. Allen

CHOCOLATE PUDDING

- Butter size of an egg
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 cup flour
- 1 egg slight beaten
- 2/3 cup milk

Steam for two hours. For sauce use whipped cream.

Mrs. C. Johnson

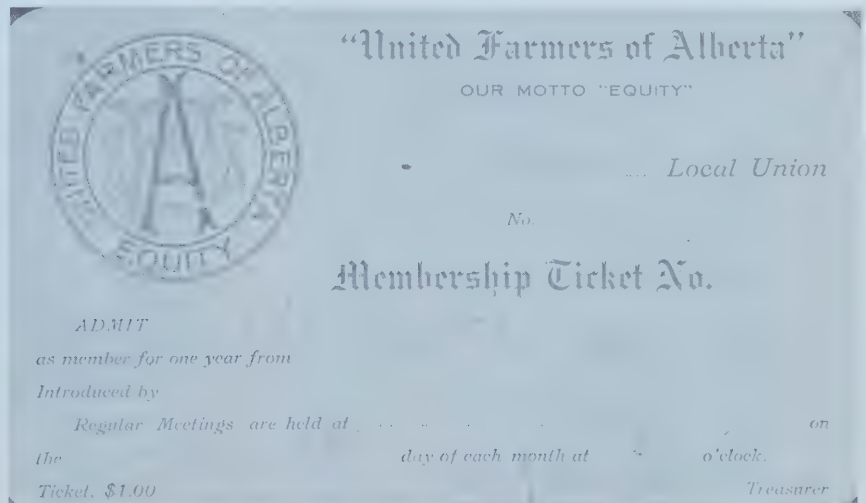
FILLING FOR TARTS

- 1 cup sugar
- Butter size of walnut
- 1 cup currants
- 1 egg
- Flavoring
- Fill tart shells and bake.

Mrs. Carrington

'Nothing is opened more often by mistake than a mouth.

United Farmers of Alberta January 1st to December 31st, 1915.



James and Carrie Brown (Goldie Shippy's parents).



Elizabeth Prior in her Scottish tartan, 1925.

*Bald in front indicates a thinker,
Bald in back indicates a lover,
Bald all over indicates a thoughtful lover.*

Some politicians are like the bottom half of a double boiler - they let off a lot of steam when they don't even know what's cooking.



Nerine Shippy in front of Model T., 1920.

BE CHEERFUL FARMERS!

*taken from Irma Times - January 1935
by Berthold Figur*

*The farmers have been very brave,
Throughout this long depression,
For the courage that they had
Kept them all from going mad,
While they stuck to their profession.*

*When they had to sell their oats
At a price not worth to mention,
They just scratched their weary head,
Thought a bit and finally said,
"No use to die of tension."*

*And after threshing when they hauled
Some wheat to town for flour,
And the agent chewed the stuff
Said "This wheat of yours is tough"
They just looked rather sour.*

*And then the grocer came and said,
"You owe me ninety smackers,
I'm getting letters everyday
Which tell me that I have to pay for
That last shipment of crackers.*

*Now, Mr. Farmer, do not let
These troubles get your goat,
Get a hatch or two of chickens,
Send your worries to the dickens
And you'll pay the grocer's note.*

*Though the wool is not worth shearin'
And the sheep not worth their hay,
Do not get the least bit frantic
For there's something so romantic
In the shepherd's field they say.*

*When the oat crop is a failure
And your pasture's looking bare,
And you're very much in need
Of a little hay for feed
And your wood is getting rare;*

*That's the time you must decide,
And if you don't know how,
Get a few more head of cattle,
They will help you win the battle,
There's promise in the mooing of a cow.*

*Get a pig to fill your meat box,
Plant a beet and spud,
That will make you feel a winner
Even if you are a sinner
Digging in the mud.*

*And if you get in further trouble,
Ask your friend's advice,
What if farming doesn't pay
As they all declare today
And production costs exceed the selling price.*

*Get to think of nature's beauty,
And think you're alive,
With your chores to keep you busy,
No brain work to make you dizzy,
Surely you'll survive.*

THE LAST WILL OF A PRAIRIE FARMER

The Wilkie Press, Wednesday, April 14, 1982

I Leave:

To My Wife - My overdraft at the bank. Maybe she can explain it.

To My Son - Equity on my car. Now he'll have to go to work to meet the payments.

To My Banker - My soul. He has the mortgage on it anyway.

To My Neighbour - My clown suit. He'll need it if he continues to farm as he has in the past.

To My Accountant - My unpaid bills. They took some real chances on me and I want to do something for them.

To the Farm Adviser - 50 bushels of corn to see if he can hit the high market. I never did.

To the Junk Man - All my machinery. He's had his eyes on it for years.

To My Undertaker - A special request. I want six implements and fertilizer dealers for my pallbearers. They are used to carrying me.

To The Weatherman - Rain, sleet and snow for the funeral please. No sense in having good weather.

To the Grave Digger - Don't bother. The hole I am in should be big enough.

To the Monument Maker - Set up a jig for the epitaph, 'here lies a Farmer who has now assumed all of his obligations'.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE FARM WIFE

1. Thou shalt not sort cattle with hands in your pockets. (Husbands and cows don't like that.)
2. Thou shalt cook meals which can be served thirty minutes early or two hours late.
3. Thou shalt learn to keep farm records. ("When did we turn out the bull?")
4. Thou shalt love the smell of new mown hay, freshly plowed earth, sweet smelling silage and the stinging sensation of ammonia in the barn.
5. Thou shalt be inspired to see the sun rise and relieved to see it set.
6. Thou shalt learn to open gates, close gates and guard gates.
7. Thou shalt thrill at the birth of a new calf, and the sight of a bright new tractor.
8. Thou shalt live close to God with faith to exceed many city dwellers'.
9. Thou shalt cherish meals together, long nights of waiting for the vet to arrive and decisions of plowing up the wheat.
10. Thou shalt be exalted at the brotherly hand on your shoulder, the tender kiss on your forehead and these three precious words, "Thanks for helping."



Tam Ambler and his hounds.



Jim Knudson with catch of furs, 1934-35. Coyote pelts eight to ten dollars, skunk three dollars, weasel one to one dollar and fifty cents.

December 22, 1922 - Mr. C. Currie returned from Edmonton and reported that he had disposed of coyote hides for an average price of thirteen dollars. This is more than he averaged for some cattle he shipped to Winnipeg some weeks ago.

SUNNY ALBERTA

*Irma Times 1952
appeared in Viking News in 1922*

*Here's to health in our Sunny Alberta,
To its crops, its cattle, its soil,
Where the sun very seldom does hurt you,
And it's little we get for our toil;
Where it's forty below in the morning,
And at night in the shade ninety-three;
But in spite of climatic conditions,
Well, it's Sunny Alberta for me!*

*Sometimes we know that we fear it,
As we wink 'neath the sting of the cold;
There are times we wish we were not near it,
When the flies and mosquitoes grow bold.
But there's something that grips and that holds you,
Though the life far from trouble is free,
And in spite of heat, cold, disadvantage,
Well, it's Sunny Alberta for me.*

*Now my home 'tis a shack and a small one,
Winter blown by winds keen as a knife;
And the bill at the store is a tall one;
And I'm told that I'm wasting my life,
Though the pants that I wear are disgraceful,
And it's pretty hard picking you see,
Well, I've still got my faith in the future,
And it's Sunny Alberta for me.*

*For Alberta is still in the making,
She's vast and she's raw and she's new;
And the province is teeming with riches,
But the markets are dreadfully few,
And a day is in sight in the future,
When conditions all adjusted will be,
Faintly glimmers a light through the darkness,
And it's Sunny Alberta for me.*



Art Gwinn and some of his coyote hides.



Charlie Archibald on a coyote hunt.



Ralph Mark and his father doing the dishes.



Carl Finch and Lionel Guiltner and their fall hunt.



Eileen Prior going to pitch bundles.



Jim Jackson and pony Buck in 1926-27.



We couldn't have managed without it!



George and Victoria Elliott.

FIFTY YEARS AND MORE

CHAPTER 8

DOUBLE TROUBLE TWINS

Del and Tobe Smith.





Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. M.D. Askin, March 4, 1946: Mrs. Burrell, Georgina Enger, Mrs. G. Knowles, Mr. M.D. Askin, Mrs. W. Inkin, Mrs. M.D. Askin, Mrs. E.C. Elliott, Mrs. T. Sanders, Mrs. A. Fischer, Mrs. Watkinson, Mrs. Stan Brown, Mrs. G. Tripp, Mrs. J. Fenton, Mrs. M. Arnold. Two partially hidden at back unknown.



Bert and Mary Armitage's 50th in November, 1983.



Bill and Louise Oracheski June of 1966.



Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Ramsay at their 50th in 1955.



50th of Otto & Katherine Bethge, June 24th, 1969. Erna and Ken Bakland, Irvine and Joyce Bethge, Paul and Millie Bethge, Mildred and Herb Redman, Maurice and Lorraine Pysko (Mildred's only girl - deceased), Clarence Bethge, Elsie and Stan Woodcock, Fritz and Magda Bethge, Kathy Bethge, Mom, Dad, Irvine Bethge, Jr., Darryl Woodcock, Susan Bakland, Karen Woodcock, Valerie Bakland, Lynne Pysko, David Bakland.



Roy Bronson, Jim Bronson, Grace Hall, Roy Bronson, Mat Bronson. 50th for Mat and Jim.



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bruhaug's 60th, 1977.



Golden wedding picture, 1969. Collin, Clarence, Eugene and Mae Carter, Allison and Ernest.



Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Charter, 50th, 1965.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom LeVoor's 50th at Battle River Lodge on February 11, 1969.

He's Following the Leader

A small boy on a street was struggling with a leash attached to an extremely large and uncooperative St. Bernard. A passerby paused to watch the tug-of-war.

"Are you taking that dog for a walk?" she asked.

"I will," panted the boy, "as soon as I find out where he wants to go."

— Weekend Chuckle



Jim and Anne Clisdell on their 50th.



Annie and Gerald Currie at their 50th in Vancouver in 1966.



The Currie Family in 1936: Ella, David, Leigh, Gerald, Ivan, Mother and Dad.



Bill and Adelaide Dootson's 40th.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Daniel at their 50th.



Eldon and Isabel Fenton on their 50th, November 15th, 1976.



Jim and Minnie Jackson on their 50th - April 18, 1978.



Mr. and Mrs. Fischer with their flowers on December 25th, 1957 - 50th.



Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hockett's 60th.



Archie and Peggy Fleming on their 40th.



Mr. and Mrs. H. Knudson April 7th, 1943 - 60th.



George and Peggy Inkin's 50th, 1983.



Pete and Mamie Kellar's 50th - 1965.



Rick and Bessie Larson's 40th - 1971.



Marjorie and George Fischer 50th - December 29, 1984.

Once, when I was young and spry, a handsome stranger caught my eye. He had it all - looks, youth and charm. To top it off, he owned a farm. I made my plans and acted coy, to capture that unknowing boy.

My darling never stood a chance, and soon we danced our wedding dance.

Fifty years gone since that day - my, how time has slipped away.

Think back now in good fun, with just a hint of a smile: Before he had a chance to escape, I ran him down the aisle!



Art and Bessie Long, 50th, August, 1968.



Viggo and Otilia Lindberg on their 50th.



Pete and Ivy's 45th, 1979. Front Row, Left to Right: Stuart Daniel, Ian and Gwen Daniel, Ivy and Pete Mollier.



Bill and Dolly Pedel's 50th on December 2, 1981.



Evaline and Charlie Pyle - 50th. Glenn, Maxine, Faye, Gordon. Seated: Evaline, Charlie, Shirley.

Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest wrinkles the soul. In the central place of every heart, there is a recording chamber; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, and courage, so long are you young. When the wires are all down and your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then, and then only, are you grown old.



Charlie and Ida Savard on their 50th.

A group of Senior Citizens had been discussing their aches and pains when one woman commented, "Well, it just proves one thing - old age is not for sissies."



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vandervaate on their 50th anniversary, Minnie and Harry Ellwood, Henry and Rose Vandervaate, Bill and Bob Pocock.



Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Bell, 50th.



Charlie and Annie Milne on their 50th, June 26, 1983.



William Russell family taken on their 50th wedding anniversary.



Haakon and Vera Larson at their 50th, March 16, 1982.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ahlf on their 50th, 1964. David, Carol, Lenore, Elmer, Arthur and Mary.



Louie and Maxine Larson 50th, February 7, 1981.



50th anniversary of William and Martha Prior.



Eleanor and Norman Willerton's 50th. Back Row: Pete Belton, Richard, Eddie, and Kevin Willerton. Second Row: Norma Belton, Brenda Willerton, Randy Olson, Bruce Willerton. Third Row: Roxy, Val Belton, Ruby Olson, Alice Willerton. Front Row: Lana Olson, Eleanor and Norman Willerton, Lori Olson.



Margaret, Harold, Jr., Dorothy, Alwyn, Jean and Mr. and Mrs. Whidden on their 60th, June, 1975.



Howard and Ina Peterson's 60th.



Harold and Edith Cockroft.



Jean and Ernest Rae, 60th, December 10, 1984.



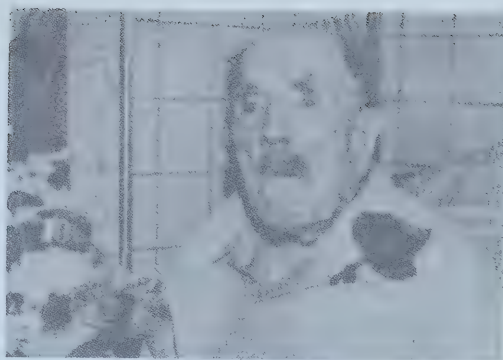
Charles and Gertrude Peterson 50th. Charlie and Grace Archibald 40th, July 15, 1971.



Jim and Bessie Wakefield, 46th, 1962.



Fred and Lois Jack 40th, Feb. 14, 1981.



Knut Ronjom 100th birthday, June 1st, 1980.

The Simple Things

Oh let us keep the simple things,
The charms an early morning brings,
The meadow grass all fresh with dew
Before the sun comes stealing through,
Majestic mountains reaching high
That seem to kiss the blue of sky.

Oh let us love the things so small
That sometimes matter not at all,
One tiny bird upon her nest,
When quiet minds would pause in rest,
The babbling brook, a shaded place,
Or just one smile upon a face.

Oh let us love the gentle rain,
The growing wheat upon the plain,
A wildflower bringing beauty rare,
The scent of lilacs on the air,
The peaceful moments with a friend
Just as the rush of day would end.

A tiny child with trusting eyes,
A rainbow after stormy skies,
Bright colors of an autumn day,
A smile of God where sunbeams play,
The wondrous gladness loving brings
Oh, let us keep the simple things.



Mr. and Mrs. Ross Eaton on their 40th. Back Row: Alice Flewelling, Percy Jones, Walter Frickleton, Dick Rohrer, Ross McFarland, Senior, Mrs. Tripp, Mrs. Watkinson, Mrs. Tate, Mrs. R. McFarland, Mrs. Percy Jones, Mrs. Charlotte Larson, Mrs. W. Frickleton, Mrs. Kate McLean, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Eaton.



Verna Larson, Irma Guy, Violet Herbert, Linda Minchau, Tracy Minchau.



Five generations. Margaret Smith, Mrs. Whidden, Annette Newton and baby Jordon, Faye Pyle.



Jean and Joan Fleming.



Malcolm and Mathew MacDuff born Oct. 21, 1976.



Ina and Jim Mathison, born 1917.



Amy and Alex Currie, born Nov. 8, 1970.



Lotty Fleming



Lori Fleming



Atkinson twins, Dorothy Benoit and Doreen King, born Jan. 28, 1932.



*Earl and Irvine
Goodale, born
1914.*



Vera and Verna born September 6, 1926.



Marlene and Marianne Raasok at three years of age. Born Jan. 1953.



Esther and Evelyn Fluevog, taken about 1948. Born Mar. 20, 1944.



*Richard and Robert
Jones, born Sept. 12,
1946.*



*Gregory and Jeffrey
Copeland with big
brother Mike.*



Donna and Doreen Elliot.



Debbie MacKay



Diane MacKay

This is a non-profit organization - it wasn't meant to be but that's the way it's turning out.

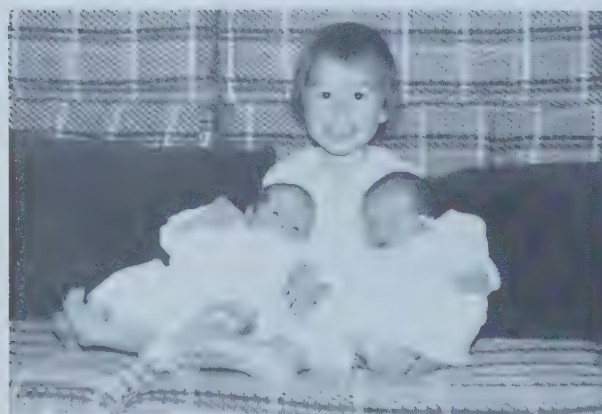
You don't get tired eyes by looking on the sunny side.



Ruby Whidden (Robinson) and Ruth Whidden (Robinson).



Front: Cora and Claude Larson with family. Born Nov. 28, 1932.



Julie Marie and Heather Ann Benoit born May 5, 1985.



Corinne and Kristal Prior, born December 28, 1971.



Creasy twins - Leslie and Leanne.



Eileen and Marie Meyer born June 5, 1927.



Del Smith and Tobe Smith, Dec. 1909.



Baptism Day on May 26, 1946. Connie and Collin Fuder at six and one-half months. Twins of Lawrence and Helen Fuder.

Thoughtful children do not call for a drink as soon as they have gone to bed. They wait until their parents have gone to bed, too.

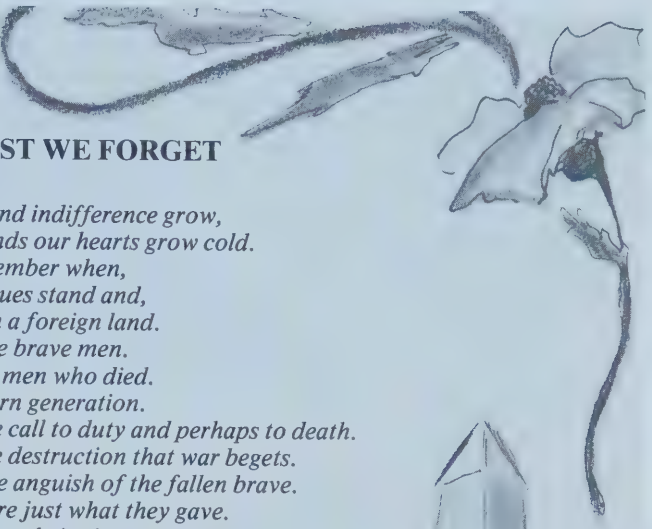
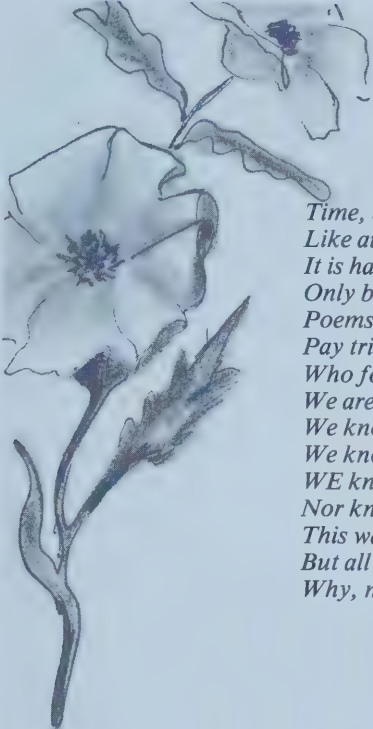
Five-Year-Old's Birthday

**The hour that the party will come to an end
Is seldom decided numerically —**

**The truth is, it's much more inclined to depend
On when Mom starts screaming hysterically.**

— Hal Chadwick





LEST WE FORGET

*Time, distance and indifference grow,
Like autumn winds our hearts grow cold.
It is hard to remember when,
Only bronze statues stand and,
Poems written in a foreign land.
Pay tribute to the brave men.
Who fought and men who died.
We are the modern generation.
We know not the call to duty and perhaps to death.
We know not the destruction that war begets.
WE know not the anguish of the fallen brave.
Nor know for sure just what they gave.
This war was over, their victory won.
But all was in vain, if we forget,
Why, men lie in Flanders Fields.*



CHAPTER 9

LADIES' AUXILIARY TO CANADIAN LEGION IRMA NUMBER 112

On February 13th, 1963 the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Canadian Legion was formed. The district Commander Mrs. K. McKenzie of Vegreville was in attendance as well as Zone Commander Mr. Sawyer from Edgerton. The Men's and Ladies' Color Parties from Wainwright and Edgerton were present.

Charter members were Mrs. A. Pioker, Mrs. D. Bacon, Mrs. F. Matthew, Mrs. C. Russell, Mrs. D. Hockett, Mrs. D. Cook, Mrs. C. Lukens, Mrs. V. McBurney and Mrs. I. Drewicki.

In addition to the charter members the following have been or are members of the Ladies' Auxiliary - Mrs. M. Burns, Mrs. M. Barss, Mrs. A. Glasgow, Mrs. D. Haugen, Mrs. V. Jones, Mrs. M. Lambert, Mrs. V. Larson, Mrs. R. Larson, Mrs. M. Miles, Mrs. A. McFarland, Mrs. B. Ronjom, Mrs. E. Majcher, Karen McBurney, Rene Drewicki, Carol Banks, Mame Kellar, Olive Jones, Judy Lemieux, Shirley Clisdell, Olive McArthur, Alice Sharkey, Pat Fuder, Doris Jones, Gwen Ruttle, Elsie Coulthman and Ethel McFarland. Our two life members are Mary Lambert and Mame Kellar.

Donations are made annually to Provincial Bursaries, Hospitals and Welfare and a grade nine bursary at the local level. After our rummage sales we donated to the Marian Centre and the Salvation Army. We have supported the High School Band and for years entered a float in the Irma Parade.

We've helped make many improvements to the Legion Hall, some of them being the piano, stove, and Ladies' and Men's Colors. We were responsible for the installation of the phone in the hall and for years kept up the rental. The men's branch has taken over this duty.

Our Sunshine Committee visits Senior Lodges with fruit and candy as well as we sponsor children's skating parties.

The present executive is - President, Mrs. D. Haugen; Vice-President, Mrs. O. Jones; Secretary, Mrs. C. Russell and Treasurer, Mrs. J. Lemieux. We hold one meeting per month.

SEA CADETS - CAYUGA

The Irma Division of R.C.S.C.C. came into being in 1957 with Petty Officer Garry Archibald making it possible. Before this Art Lovig, Bruce Miles and Red McLaughlin were some of Irma's first cadets.

By 1962 Cayuga was beginning to enroll second generation cadets. Since 1952 approximately one hundred and twenty-five boys from the Irma district have taken cadet training. The year 1970-71 was an outstanding year for Cayuga when it won national recognition for best corps and best enrollment under one hundred, cadet of the year, and the most outstanding corps in western Canada for the military drill and efficiency.

Since 1972 relatively few youths from the Irma area have belonged to cadets, but there have always been some members. Captain Garry Archibald continues to be the



Sea Cadets on parade-Armistice 1983.

Commanding Officer of Cayuga, with the capable assistance of Lieutenant Wes Mitchell, Lieutenant Chester Zajic and Second Lieutenant Bev Valteau (nee Prior of Irma) as the female instructor, and Lieutenant Dave Lane of Czar and Sergeant-Major Bill Gray of Irma as the liaison instructor.

Captain Archibald and Lieutenant Mitchell have seen some six hundred young men and women progress through the corps. The corps continues to win and achieve national and provincial awards. For the past eight out of nine years, we have held the top attendance achievement in the Dominion. In proficiency, Cayuga has received the award for six of the past nine years.

In 1973 girls were officially accepted into the Sea Cadet movement. Since then we have had some very keen and super girls pass through the corps.

In 1983 we celebrated our Fortieth Anniversary, which was attended by over four hundred people.

Over the years the opportunities for cadets have become more and more inviting for hardworking young people. Several of our summer camps are operated by the cadets themselves from cooking to engineering. Cayuga has been sending between 65-80% of their cadets to summer camps from Camp Wright at Athabasca to cruises half-way around the world.

We have participated in Open House Canada trips to Nova Scotia, and have been attending Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Band Competitions. Many tours of Canadian Forces Bases have been enjoyed by the cadets.

Cayuga usually assists with three Armistice Day Services in the area, at Wainwright, Irma and Czar. Some Irma boys may have held the record for mileage travelled until we started attracting cadets from Amisk, Czar and Hughenden.

During the year we hold defensive driving courses, St. John's First Aid courses, Hunter Training and others. Cayuga over the past few years has developed a band which is well known in the cadet circle.

As an instructor with Cayuga we have had the opportunity to work with some of the finest young adults from our communities and hope we have provided some guidance towards helping these young people become good citizens for tomorrow.

In 1984 seven cadets from Irma received training - Sheldon Archibald, Shanon Archibald, Gene Lukens, Trevor Copeland, Freda, Ruth and Heather Carter.



Banquet and social evening for returned men at Kiefer's Hall, Irma, on April 10th, 1946, also when the power was officially turned on.



Jarrow World War I Monument. Inscription "In Memory Of Our Fallen", Frank Comley, Gerald Maxwell, James Murray, William Murray.

April 13, 1923 - Jarrow Memorial Park - To commemorate the memory of the boys of the district who offered their all, (some making the extreme sacrifice), in the Great War, the residents of the village and district of Jarrow, at the close of the war, purchased four lots on the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue. This square is being made into a park and it is the desire of the community that it shall be beautiful and properly kept, a perpetual memorial to the boys.

A TOAST TO OUR COUNTRY

We're proud of our country, it's praises we'll sing,
O'er valley and hill let the loud echoes ring;
There's much we could tell of this wonderful land,
Her beauty was fashioned by nature's skilled hand.

From far eastern shores to her western coast,
Of the wealth she unfolds, we have reason to boast;
Her mountains and lakes are tourists' retreats,
For miles her broad prairies are laden with wheat.

Our long southern border, from sea unto sea,
No soldiers to guard our boundary have we;
Goodwill to our neighbors, we love every one,
In dealing with them, their respect we have won.

Three cheers for our country! the land we all love,
May our rulers be guided with peace from above;
With love to all men, may she prosper in wealth,
With this thought in mind let us drink to her health.

G.W.V.A. Will Organize Sunday

Mr. Hume, organizer for the G.W.V.A., will be in Irma on Sunday evening and will hold a meeting for the purpose of forming a branch of the Great War Veterans Association. All returned men are asked to be at the Co-op Hall where the meeting will be held. *Sept 19, 1918*

HYMN OF VICTORY

by Mrs. William Walker
- Irma Times November 15, 1918

*O God our strength throughout the years,
We thank Thee, through our joyful tears,
That Thou did'st not forget
Our trust in Thee, our agony
In sacrifice of loved ones gone -
(Tho' oft our faith groped waveringly,)
But now - of peace we see the dawn!*

*Victorious Peace! How sweet the sound
Tho' we have watched afar
In homes secure, the dreadful round
Of these long years of War;
We knew, O God, Thou wert still
The Ruler over all,
That Thou Thy promise would'st fulfill
To judgement would'st the Tyrants call.*

*O God of Battles, leave us not
In this glad hour of Victory
Let it ne'er be by us forgot
That we owe all the praise to Thee
For guidance thro' each long dark hour,
For Wisdom to our Leaders given,
Thou wert each Soldier's Strength and Power,
And thus the Foe's strong lines were riven.*

*O God of Wisdom, guide us still
Now that the war is won,
Help us, in Christ's name to fulfill
The work we have begun,
Help us to help those countless ones
In that blighted land;
May we, in love like Thy Son
Extend the helping hand.*

*O God of Judgement, we must needs
Now leave the task to Thee,
Of punishing for their dire deeds
The common enemy.
Of all that's true, and good, and right -
Deal with them justly in Thy might.
Vengeance is Thine, help us not to forget;
Deal with them yet - Oh judge them yet!*

*O God of Victory, in this hour
Of triumph o'er our foes,
Grant us a never ending power
To gain the victory over those
Who would the soul destroy -
Thus may the world be filled with joy.*

*We know that always in Thy sight
Not might - but right is right.*

IRMA LOCAL NO. 112 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

The Irma Local #112 Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League was formed on Feb. 24, 1931, at a meeting held in Keiter's Hall. Comrade M.D. Askin was chairman of the organizational meeting.

The slate of officers first to serve the Irma Branch were as follows: Hon. president-Comrade J.G. Clarke, President-Comrade A. Harper; Vice-president-Comrade M.D. Askin; Secretary-Treasurer-Comrade W.E. Inkin; Executive Members-Comrades Wm. Cole, W. Stewart, W. Steele.

Other members of the 1931 membership Roll were Comrades-Gus Christensen, H. Carter, W. Clark, D.H. Currie, W. Cooper, J. Hedley, T. Kirkpatrick, Chas McLean, Geo. Batchelor, J.P. Yeend, R.H. Stone, W.G. Gunn, N.M. Gunn, E.W. Carter, Chas. R. Jackman, R.C. Johnson, J.G. Rae, J.R. Whyte, R.C. McFarland, L.M. Roberts, N.S. Johnson.

Previous to the organizing a Branch of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L. there was a Branch of the Great War Veterans Association in Irma. The G.W.V.A. was dissolved at the 1930 Dominion Convention and the Canadian Legion B.E.S.L. formed. All G.W.V.A. Locals then disbanded and the members formed Canadian Legion Locals.

The books and records of the Irma Local of the G.W.V.A. were all destroyed in the fire of April 13, 1931 that raged the Irma Memorial Hall. The only record of the G.W.V.A. is an entry in the New Canadian Legion minute book of February 24, 1931 listing the assets of the G.W.V.A. turned over to the Canadian Legion.

The entry reads as follows: "Cash in bank-\$220.82. One 2-roomed building, known as the Memorial Hall, used as Central Telephone Office, 1 coal bin at rear. One lot on Main street, board fenced for about half the length.



Legion Hall picture.

One store counter, one toilet outside of fence, three chairs and 1 large Union Jack (in Sec. Treas. care).

Above building rented to Mrs. Hewitt at \$10.00 per month."

The first memorial service under the auspices of the Irma Branch, Canadian Legion was held in Keifer's Hall on Nov. 11, 1931. The Canadian Legion has arranged memorial services in Irma each and every year since that date.

The present day members of the Legion and all other ex-servicemen and women in the District, pay grateful tribute to the people of this community, who each year fill the Hall to join us in our annual memorial service.

The present Legion Hall had its start at a meeting on July 17, 1937. When a motion was passed to build a Hall. The first meeting was held in the new Hall a 24 x 24 ft. building, on Nov. 6, 1937.

This small Hall served the Legion well until 1953. Hedley's Hall was used until then for all Lodge and other similar meetings, until 1953 when the post office premises were enlarged utilizing the space that had been the meeting Hall. The various Lodges then approached the Legion with the proposition that the Legion Hall be enlarged to meet the need for a Lodge Hall and for small meetings. The Legion decided to go ahead with the suggested building expansion. A 36 foot addition to be built on to the west end of the existing building. Making a 24 x 12 front entry and kitchen area and a 24 x 8 foot Hall.

The Strawberry Plains Community Association donated \$500.00 to the Legion for this project. The Gratton Lodge A.F.A.M. and Irma Lodge #366 B.P.O. Elks each advanced \$500.00 as prepaid rental. And with many fine community minded people who gave generously of their time, the project was on its way. And the building was completed in the early fall of 1954. And the official opening was held on Nov. 19, 1954. This building served the community well for ten years. Then it was deemed necessary to improve the building, update and modernize it.

In Aug. 1964 a new addition was added onto the front of the building, larger and better locker space, sewer and water installed, with large convenient washrooms and a large convenient kitchen. This hall has been of great benefit to the Irma district. The Irma Branch of the Canadian Legion are pleased to have been able to be of service to the community and are grateful for all of the help we have received.

The Irma Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has never had a large membership. Many ex-servicemen have never become members. But the members of the Legion Branch have always been willing to, and in many cases have been able to give assistance to ex-servicemen, whether Legion members or not. That is our object and our responsibility.

Only two charter members were on our membership roll on Jan. 1, 1972. W. Clarke and Ross C. McFarland.

Comrade Ross C. McFarland answered his last Roll Call on February 15, 1972.

The rest of the membership are all veterans of the 2nd World War.

We list below, the names of our Comrades who at sea, on land or in the air, gave up their lives for King and Country, or having survived the wars, have since passed on.

This list is as complete as we have been able to compile. If anyone is aware of any name being omitted, would they please advise the Secretary of the Irma Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion so that the omission can be rectified. We will be grateful for your assistance.

Honor Roll:

These men, from our district, died in Active Service on duty at their country's call. N.M. Riley, H.J. Barss, C. Dickens, A. Dalton, A.E. McDorman, J. Dunbar, D.W. Graham, J. Edmonds, T. Hamilton, A. Lennon, B. Mildon, R.L. Parsons, N. Van Patten, R. Swan, G. Lipper, W.W. Bell, W. Wilson, H. Jamieson, B. Ingles, R. Pavey, M. Webber, R. Locke, T. Lewis, M. Pendleton, N.W. Miles, L. Mikkelson, C. Jones, H. Gu'braa, A. E. McDerman



New Cenotaph at the Irma Legion Hall.



Irma Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion.

● METALS ● BONES ● RAGS
● RUBBER ● PAPER ● GLASS

THESE ARE YOUR War Weapons

SAVE THEM, GIVE THEM
and HELP WIN THIS WAR

SALVAGE THESE VITAL WAR MATERIALS FROM YOUR FARM YARDS, STORAGE PLACES, AND CELLARS—BUNDLE EVERYTHING UP AND TAKE THEM IN TO YOUR NEAREST SALVAGE HEADQUARTERS! The local merchant or postmaster in your town or village will direct you to community salvage depot.

WIN the SCRAP with SCRAP

Space donated by
THE BREWING INDUSTRY OF ALBERTA

HELP CANADA

Buy War Savings Stamps Regularly

November 21, 1941 - Dry prairie bones at forty cents a hundred weight were shipped from Irma.

October 1942 - A blackout arranged on a Sunday evening was a success as far as Irma residents were concerned but three cars driven by farmers of the district came into town with their lights on during the fifteen minute period. Car lights when seen from a plane look like search lights and would attract the attention of bombing planes.

LETTERS	NUMBERS	Prefix and Serial
E N	240045	No de Série (ave
LETTRES	NUMÉROS	
Name	W. and I. Law	
Vom	Last Name—Nom de famille	
First Name—Pré		
Street Address or R.R. No.		
Vo et rue ou R.R. No.		
City or Town		
Ville ou Village		
Province	Telephone	}
Province	Number	
RATION BOOK 6		CARNE RATIONNEL
CANADA		

70 M	71 M	20 Y	21 Y
69 M	72 M	19 Y	22 Y
ACHER LES COUPONS		ACHER LES COUPONS	



A tractor from the Coalsprings Threshing Company - later it was used for scrap: Audrey Jones, Percy Jones, Jack Fletcher, Cliff Jones, Ernie Carter, ?. Picture was taken on the west side of Johnny Hines' house, north of the Catholic Church.

HONOR ROLL

These men from our district died in active Service on duty at their country's call.

N.M. RILEY
H.J. BARSS
C. DICKENS
A. DALTON
A.E. McDORMAN
J. DUNBAR
D.W. GRAHAM
J. EDMONDS
A. LENNON
T. HAMILTON
B. MILDON

J. MILDON
R.L. PARSONS
N. VAN PATTEN
R. SWAN
G. TIPPER
W.W. BELL
H. WILSON
H. JAMIESON
R. PAVELY
M. WEBBER
B. INGLES

R. LOCKE
T. LEWIS
M. PENDLETON
N.W. MILES
L. MIKKELSON
C. JONES
H. GULBRAA
L. TWEEDIE
H. TWEEDIE

These men from our district, who went at their country's call and returned, have since passed on.

J.R. MILDON
W. DALTON
C. McLEAN
D. McDOUGAL
W.E. INKIN
T. ROME
W.T. STEELE
F. NASH
R. MILTON
W. COLE
R.D. LUKENS
W. BELTON
N. GUNN
W. GUNN
M.D. ASKIN
W.E. WALKER
E. HARRISON
I. CURRIE
J.A. HEDLEY
O. DEVIGNEY
J.G. RAE
E.T. DALLOW
A. BARKER

DR. C. GREENBERG
R. KIRKMAN
G. WHIDDEN
L. LENNON
K. MATHESON
JOSHUA HOLT
A.V. McKEE
G.H. PARSONS
H. ELLIOTT
S. CONGDON
A. WHIDDEN
R. JOHNSON
A. BACON
D. COFFIN
H.L. LARSON
D. CURRIE
G. CHRISTENSEN
A.C. CHARTER
C. MIKKELSON
J. SONEFF
H. LEWIS
R.C. McFARLAND
J. HALVORSON

W. CLARK
K.A. COOK
G. ELLIOTT
F. WITHALL
WM. STEWART
R. CONGDON
D. MATHESON
R. BELL
WM. WHITELEY
G. MATTHEW
C. CARTER
K.C. CARTER
C. McBURNEY
O.P. LARSON
F. JACK
E.W. PROSSER
A. CARTER
E.W. CARTER
ARCHIE BACON
C. MILNE
B. BURNS

WORLD
WAR I
1914-18



Roy Askin



H.J. Barss



David Currie



Ivan Currie



Woody Clark



Jack Elliott



Olaf Jackson



R.C. Johnson



Russel Love



John McNaughton



Bob Meakins



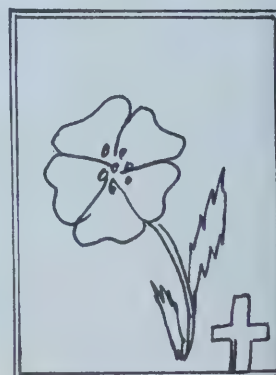
Fenton Nash



Bill Pedal



Dick Rohrer



WORLD
WAR II
1939-45



Dub Allen



George Archibald



John Archibald



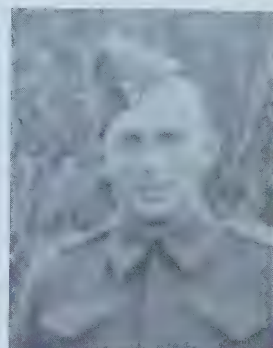
Albert Bacon



Archie Bacon



Harley Barss



Lawrence Beckett



Robert Bell



John Bethge



Paul Bethge



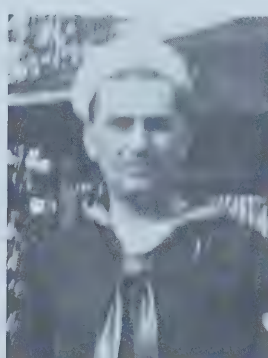
Clarence Bethge



Ralph Blaine



Gail Blaine



Eugene Blaine



Bob Blaine



Floyd Bronson



Don Burton



Jim Carter



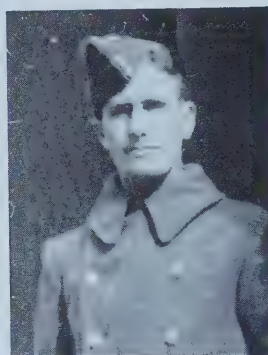
Earl Carter



Harry Carter Sr.



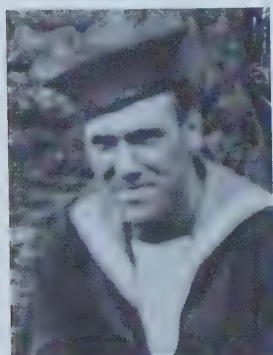
Bob Charter



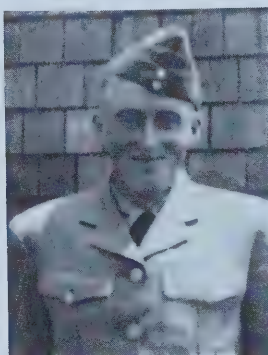
Phil Charter



Keith Coffin



Sam Congdon



Donald Dagg



Lucille Darkes



Bill Dunbar



Harold Elliott



Hugh Elliott



Les Elliott



Lloyd Erickson



Harry Figenshau



Sigurd Fluevog



Albert Glasgow



Russel Glover



Jack Glover



Ellsworth Goodale



Irvine Goodale



Earl Goodale



Harvey Guiltner



Harold Gulbraa



Gordon Harvey



Phil Inkin



Charles Jackman



Charles Jackman Jr.



Hans Jameison



Ivan Johnston



Wayne King



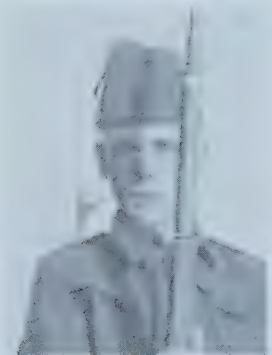
John Keller



Bob Kirkman



Melvin Knudson



Clarence Larson



Elsie Larson



Albert Larson



Allan Larson



Herbie Larson



Ray Lisson



Charles Lisson



Harold Lisson



Charlie De Tro



Ray Locke



Floyd Lockhart



Clair Lukens



Ralph Lukens



Ward Lymburner



Hadden McElroy



Art McKee



Scotty Matthew



Jim Matthew



William Meakins



Carl Mikkelson



Lawrence Mikkelson



Lester Mikkelson



Charlie Miles



Howard Morgan



Howard Parsons



Steve Pioker



Leonard Parsons



Wes Parsons



Roland Bick



Art Peterson



Percy Prosser



Gordon Ramsey



Betty Ramsey



Ed Sharkey



Bob Simmermon



Albert Soneff



Jim Soneff



Tony Soneff



Gerald Taylor



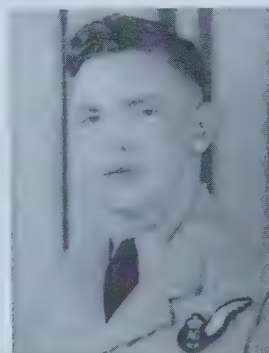
Harold Tweedy



Elsie Tweedy



Lillian Tweedy



Lester Tweedy



Jim Voros



George Voros



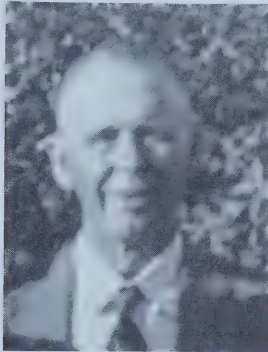
Margaret Voros



Vera Voros



Gordon Whidden



Aubrey Whidden



Fred Jack



Ervin Prosser

REPLY TO IN FLANDERS FIELDS

Oh! sleep in peace where poppies grow;
The torch your falling hands let go
Was caught by us, again held high,
A beacon light in Flanders sky
That dims the stars to those below.
You are our dead, you held the foe,
And ere the poppies cease to blow,
We'll prove our faith in you who lie
In Flanders Fields.

As in rumbling sound, to and fro,
The lightning flashes, sky aglow,
The mighty hosts appear, and high
Above the din of battle cry,
Scarce heard amidst the guns below,
Are fearless hearts who fight the foe,
And guard the place where poppies grow.
Oh! sleep in peace, all you who lie
In Flanders Fields.

And still the poppies gently blow,
Between the crosses, row on row.
The larks, still bravely soaring high,
Are singing now their lullaby
To you who sleep where poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

FREEDOM

What is this freedom worth to you, my friend?
Freedom to live and love from day to day
Freedom to go in peace your chosen way,
Freedom to keep the faith you hold most dear,
Freedom to worship therein without fear,
Freedom to choose your rulers, and to change,
Freedom to stay by fireside or to range,
Freedom to think and speak your mind aloud,
Freedom to stand alone or with the crowd,
What would it cost you, should this freedom end?

What is this freedom worth to you, my friend?
Ask any one of all those millions who
Once took its gifts for granted — just like you.
Ask some poor refugee whose haunted eyes
Still see the horrors left 'neath native skies.
Ask countless victims of the Nazi lust
Who placed in blind neutrality their trust.
Ask, and remember ere it be too late
That what was theirs might also be our fate.
What would you give this freedom to defend?



CHAPTER 10



FAMILY HISTORIES

*Albert Knudson Family, 1917. Standing: Gail, Albert, Amy.
Sitting: Annie, James, Hannah, Carrie.*

MR. AND MRS. HUGH ADAMS

by Joy (Adams) King

Hugh Adams came to Canada from Ireland in 1906. A group of Irish bachelors signed up for homesteads at Cooking Lake, Alberta. He worked as a surveyor for a few years as well as raising cattle and milking cows to sell cream.

Hugh met Rae Connolly who was in nurse's training at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. Rae was from Ireland as well. When she finished her training she went overseas in the Great War of 1914-1918 with the rank of Lieutenant.

They were married in 1919 and moved to the W. 1/2 31-45-7-W4th. They built a four-room house and settled down to farming. In 1920 Joy was born. Two years later they were blessed with a son, Lloyd. Times were very hard but there was always plenty to eat. The Adams' house was always full of company and the tea kettle ready.

Rae Adams was the only nurse in the community and she went to help the sick and deliver babies at any hour of the day or night. People would come for her with a horse and sleigh, wagon or buggy. The weather was often cold and the trips long. Sometimes women came to stay until their babies were born.

There was very little money but there would be chicken suppers at the schoolhouse every year. The whole district would turn out. After the food and tables were cleared away someone would play an accordian and there would be a dance. What fun that was!

Sundays we would go to church at Roseberry School and later to Battle Heights School.

There was a social club at Battle Heights and everyone, young and old would play cards at the beginning of the evening and then dance 'til the wee hours of the morning'.

Tragedy hit the Adam's household in September, 1938 when Lloyd died at the age of sixteen. Rae's health was not good. She had suffered with diabetes for many years.

In 1940 Joy married Ralph King from the Fabyan district. Ralph and Joy farmed and lived on land adjoining the Adams' place. They had three children, Ron, Patricia and Norman. Hugh and Rae loved their grandchildren and enjoyed them.



Hugh and Rae Adams, 1930's.

In 1959 Rae passed away at the age of seventy years.

Hugh lived in a little house beside Ralph and Joy's until he moved into the Battle River Lodge in Wainwright. He developed cancer and was moved to the Auxiliary hospital where he died in 1970.



Lloyd, Joy, Rae and Hugh Adams, 1936.

The King children were all married and have children of their own. In 1972 tragedy struck again and Norman died leaving his wife, Sharon, and two boys, Jim and Trevor.

Ron and his wife Marilyn live in Wainwright and have two sons Glen and Allan. Allan and Patricia Hartley live on the farm and have a daughter Sandra and son Bob.

Ralph and Joy are still farming north of Fabyan.



Carl Ahlf (team Chub and Paddy), hound Sandy, 1928.

CARL AHLF

by Lenore (Ahlf) Yeudall

At the age of 18 years in 1908 Carl Ahlf arrived in the Irma district from Sweet Spring, Missouri. He homesteaded in the Strawberry Plains district when he first came. In need of more adventure and money, he freighted on the two railways being built west of Edmonton, freighting as far west as past Jasper, always returning to Irma in the off-season of freighting. He became a Canadian Citizen in 1910.

He worked in the Batts-Jarrow districts for Urquhart and others. In 1915 Harold Whidden and Carl Ahlf bought a threshing machine which they used to do

custom threshing throughout the district.

In the meantime he was buying C.P.R. land and had married Tina Whidden in 1914. The first of their family, David, arrived in 1916 followed by Elmer, Lenore, Mary, Carol and Arthur.

In 1930 after three years of dust storms and no crops to speak of, Dad owed the C.P.R. more in interest than the original price, so he and Karl Whidden decided to go homesteading. They settled near Edson where the family still lives on the banks of the McLeod River.

Dad passed away in April of 1965, Mom passed on January 1st, 1967 and Karl Whidden in 1966. Karl Whidden's widow lives on an acreage near Edson. The six Ahlf children all live in or near Edson.

A few of the names Dad and Mom talked of are the Moores, J.A. Lennox, R.E. Westbrook, Tom Lockhart, Matt Lockhart, C. Moles, G.S. Batt, Chas. Knowles, G. Theroux, P.J. Handy, N. Lindholm, S. Murray, E.C. Cox, C. Prather, E. Keebler.

These names are taken mostly from Dad's ledger book from the years 1912 to 1918.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ahlf and family.

WINNIFRED (TAYLOR) AND LEWIS ALEXANDER FAMILY

Mary Winnifred Taylor attended Edmonton Normal School. She taught in the Irma school for eight years. During this time January 15th, 1937 she married Lewis Emerson Alexander. She continued to teach in Irma until 1940. Lewis and Winnie then moved to Lewis's farm in the Battlevue district.

They have four children: David Lewis is employed with the Federal Government in Immigration and Manpower in Vancouver, B.C. Albert Arthur graduated with a bachelor degree in fine arts and is teaching but is self-employed as an interior decorator in St. Albert. Blaine Malcolm graduated from N.A.I.T. in Radio and Television Arts. He was employed as office manager for Cine Audio in Edmonton for some time and leaving there taught in the Vocational College at Grouard, Alberta. He was zone manager for the Lakeland Tourist Zone for several years. He now lives in Camrose where he is



Winnie and Lewis Alexander on the 35th Wedding Anniversary.

Economic Development officer for the city. Sharon Mary, their daughter, married John Mclean. Sharon works at the Medical Clinic in Wainwright and John works at the Wainwright Hospital and is an emergency Medical Technician and ambulance driver. They have two daughters, Heather and Colleen. Albert is married to Susan MacPherson. They have one daughter, Kyley and one son, Kevin. Blaine is married to Donna Geroux and they have two daughters, Jessica and Kimberley. Lewis passed away on January 24th, 1982. Winnie lives in Wainwright. While Lewis was farming and for many years afterward, he was the mail contractor for the mail route out of Wainwright and Winnie taught school in Wainwright.

The Irma School: I came to teach in the Irma school in September, 1932. I was nineteen years old and was faced with a class of about forty pupils and four grades. I thought I was lucky to not have eight grades. The school had two rooms, no running water and the senior room of grades five, six, seven and eight taught by Mr. Sidney Magrath. The entire high school was taught by Mr. Stanley Reeds. Right after school started, the first thing we had to do was prepare the children for the School Fair. We prepared artwork, writing, construction work and at home the children, both boys and girls, baked cakes and cookies, made pickles and bread and there was lots of competition between them. The next big thing was to prepare for Christmas concert which was held in the hall downtown. Sometime after Christmas we started practicing for the Musical Festival which was held in Wainwright. This included choruses, duets, solos, action songs as well as elocution and dramatization. We went to the church to practice the music for several years as we had no piano in the school. Later a piano was purchased which was a great help. After the festival we had the track meet. These special events, the teaching of all these grades, and the large classes, didn't give us much time to waste. I taught this room for eight years and sometimes was given grade five to teach as well when there were too many pupils for the senior room. Somehow we managed, and many of these children went on to become teachers, ministers, technicians and into other professions. I always remember that I was well supplied with the essential paper, books and whatever I asked for. The school board and parents were really interested in the welfare of the children and my years in Irma is one of my best memories.

MRS. ANDREW ALLEN

Mrs. Allen owned NW 1-45-9. It is not known how this land was proved up as Mr. Allen worked in Edmonton. Early settlers can't remember them living here. Mrs. Allen was a sister to Jack and Bruce Henderson. The Allens had one son, Kenny, who was married to a daughter of William Walker. Harry Long purchased the land from Mrs. Allen.

CHARLIE ALLEN FAMILY

I, Charlie Allen, the eldest child of Margaret Walker and Ellsworth (Dub) Allen, was born and raised in the Irma district. After completing high school and attending the University of Alberta, I started teaching in 1954. My first school being Willowview, south of Minburn, for one year, then Plaxtonville School, which was a country school about fifteen miles north and east of Wainwright.

In 1958 I married Sophie Mroczek, who was born and raised in the Torlea district, west of Viking. We moved from the Plaxtonville district to the Holt Colony School in the fall of 1958, myself, Sophie and our first born, Brent Charles. The following three years we reminisce about as being a super experience, what with the usual country school grades one to nine, a four room teacherage and many longtime Hutterite friends. Our second son, Bobby Douglas, was born in 1960.

In the fall of 1961 we moved to Irma. Brent was then three years old, Bob ten months old. What a big move, a house with running water, telephone, bathroom luxuries we had not had in our previous homes. Since coming to the Irma School I've taught mostly in Junior High, with the exception of Mathematics and Industrial Arts in High School in recent years. In 1965 I became Vice-Principal.

Twenty-two years later finds Sophie and I still live in Irma. Brent married Marie Turcotte, a Chauvin girl, in 1982. They have two children. Bob is teaching in Wainwright.



Charlie and Sophie Allen with sons, Bob and Brent.

CLIFFORD ALLEN FAMILY

by Elsie Arndt and Doris Wakefield

Clifford came to Alberta from North Dakota with his mother, as a small son, to join his father, Jesse, in Wetaskiwin in the spring of 1906.

In the spring of 1921 Jesse Allen moved his family to north and east of Irma on the same section as Avonglen School was on, later moving across road. Clifford made his home with his parents and helped on the farm for a short time before venturing out.

He married Margaret Landers of Viking-Kinsella area in February of 1926 and moved to Strome where they farmed for a few years. Faye, their first child was born there. They moved in succession to Fabyan on the Mike Roth land where Ellen was born. The family resided on the Roth land for a short time then on to Pibroch where Elsie arrived. Venturing further down the road, they came to Irma where Clare was born, while a couple of years later Lucy arrived. They were residing on the Costin place S.W. 6-47-8-W4th. The house was built out of stone.

Mrs. Jack Marshall was the midwife for Margaret when Lucy was born in January, thus adding another girl to this happy family. Clare was a little outnumbered by girls.

Clifford, Margaret and family decided to travel back to the family farm at Strome where a couple years later Bob arrived, which brought another son to the Allen clan.



Gerald Allen and Alledina Landers, Cliff Allen and his wife Margaret (nee Landers), taken on their wedding day, February 16, 1927.



Cliff and Margaret Allen's girls: Elsie, three years; Faye, eight years; and Ellen, five years.

Faye, Ellen and Elsie began their education at Education Point School with the teacher being Miss Verna Robertson. Clifford, another son in the Jesse Allen family, was a gifted carpenter, being a handyman for anything that had to be repaired or built.

From Strome they moved to Violet Grove in the summer of 1954 where the big oil boom was on. Clifford did carpenter work and his wife Margaret worked in Maynard and Joe Allen's general store as telephone switchboard operator, helped out in the store and post office when possible. These were all under one roof, and also worked at the gas pumps for anyone needing to purchase gas.

They retired in Violet Grove after the closing down of the store. Clifford, Margaret and Lucy have gone to their well earned rest. Lucy a young lady April 1956, Clifford January 1966 and Margaret February of 1982.

The remaining family are not far from Violet Grove. Fay and Elsie are at Donalda. Ellen and Clare are at Drayton Valley and Bob is residing in the family home at Violet Grove. Elsie passed away May 1985.

E.B. (TED) ALLEN FAMILY

The E.B. (Ted) Allen family farmed in the Albert district on the farm where Jim and Mary Hinton now live, although they had already survived many dry years in the wind blown area at Chinook, Alberta.

Ted was born in 1891 to the John Allen family of Tettenhall, Staffordshire, England, who owned a city block of cattle shipping yards, slaughtering house and butcher shop. The family had a thriving business, but the stories of adventure and prosperity in the New Land intrigued them. On April 10th, 1910, Ted Allen left England by boat to break the way for his parents' family

to find a new life in Canada. On that very same boat was a young, unmarried man by the name of James Hills, making his way to the new country too. Strange as fiction, some thirty-two years later, these two men were to be related by marriage when Ted's son, John, married James Hills' adopted daughter, Doris.

After arriving at Calgary by slow train from the east coast, Ted Allen filed on a piece of land in the land office. He took a train to Brooks, but with only the land description in hand, he set out on foot to walk the ninety miles to his homestead. Ted worked for farmers in the area until his parental family immigrated to Calgary in 1911 and Ted, his father, and brother built the homestead house for the family to move from Calgary in 1913.

Ted continued working for farmers and in 1916 married Dorothy Flindell whom he had met two years earlier, and was a housemaid for the same family he worked for. Ted and Dorothy continued working in the area as a hired couple, and began their own family with the birth of John in 1917. When the senior John Allens moved to Vancouver in the early 1920's, Ted and Dorothy and young son John moved to his homestead, where daughter Betty was born in 1923 at home, and son, Robert, was born in 1929 in a hospital at Cereal, eight miles east of Chinook.

The Ted Allens prospered for a time on their farm, using one line of machinery with brother bachelors, Harold and Leslie, who homesteaded nearby. A brand new Ford touring car was purchased, and a Chevrolet truck to haul the grain to the Alberta Wheat Pool, where Ted was one of the early founding members.

Water was a problem on the Chinook prairie so the Allens drilled a two hundred and eighty foot well operated by a windmill - for the wind almost always blew there, and were even able to supply some of the neighbors with water for home and stock. With more settlers moving in, the Heathdale Post Office was established at the Allens. Mrs. Ted Allen had a very green thumb and grew a large garden, even launching into fruits, something unheard of in the dry land. Son, John, attended Olds Agricultural School to learn how to cope with the dry land farming. The Allens had a community butcher shop at their place, as Ted had an education in meat marketing in England. The meat would be hung in shallow wells or the cured meat would be wrapped in newspaper and stored in the cool grain of a bin.

Life was going fairly well for the Allens, so they built onto their house making it a two storey four bedroom house with a full size basement complete with a cistern to collect rainwater. Little did one know just how close the depression was, and it did not rain. It did not rain for several years! Only the wind blew like crazy to operate the windmill. The wind was enough to drive you insane, and in fact, due to the harsh times of the crash of 1929 and the depression of the dirty thirties, some people were driven off balance. The milk in the milk pails would be so black by the time you ran to the house that it could not always be used. Everything was covered with sand - the people working in the wind, as well as everything in the house. Even dishes in the cupboard were covered with grit. Three wire fences were completely buried in the sand and tumbleweeds.

With no crops and times so rough for a succession of years from 1934 to 1937, Ted Allen and some of his neighbors went in the Chevrolet truck to relocate somewhere in a better area. About this time some other families whom the Allens had come to know slightly, such as the Savages who only lived six miles away, the Meyers and Coffins, were beginning to consider a relocation. It seems that it was fate that would have these same families relocate, and later prosper in the Irma area.

Ted Allen found land owned by the Jim Youngs south of Mannville in the Salteaux district. Homesteaders could obtain free freight to relocate during the Depression if they signed their land over to the Social Credit government, and submitted a quit claim. A certain number of railcars were allowed for each quarter section of farmland. All their possessions, machinery and some livestock were loaded on railcars and very sadly, the Ted Allens gave up what had once been a good farm at Chinook.

Life began anew twelve miles south and one and one-half miles east of Mannville on a new farm, and John, now a young man, farmed with his father, renting some additional land in the Salteaux district. Son, Robert and daughter, Betty, attended Scotstown and Salteaux schools. Mrs. Allen grew her huge garden and grew many gorgeous flowers, so happy with the moist conditions and better soil.

In 1943 Ted Allens moved from the Young farm in the Salteaux district to the land bordering Buffalo Coulee where Roy Hay's had farmed and Jim Hinton now lives. The Allens now farmed all of Section 22 and with the land John had rented, they farmed a six quarter farm.

Daughter Betty, having completed Mannville high school, attended Edmonton's Garneau school in preparation for a teacher during war times. She taught at Lac La Biche and north of Wainwright, then joined the army to serve at Winnipeg and Ottawa, and was later discharged in 1945 at war's end.

In the fall of 1944 Betty married the neighbor's son, Claude Ramsay. Since this was during the wartime rationing of food, Baby Ruth Allen's (now Archibald) ration coupons were used to purchase icing sugar to ice the wedding cake.

When the Albert Women's Institute was formed, Dorothy became a charter member. This group provided inspiration to many farm women and the social activities were much enjoyed.

In 1945 Robert began farming with his father and brother, John, who now farmed just one and one-half miles south. The Allen brothers fed many head of cattle, which they obtained from Weiller and Williams Feedlot in Edmonton. In 1950 Robert married Gwen Fisher of Mannville. One daughter, Susan, was born to them in 1953.

The farm, which Ted Allen had bought from Roy Hay was ideal for him for through it ran the Buffalo Coulee with water for livestock, beautiful raspberry patches on the coulee banks and a gravel bed, which was sold by the yard to Minburn and Wainwright municipalities. The revenue from the gravel pit was put aside to be used in building their retirement home in Mannville in 1954.

The Allen brothers continued to farm for awhile, but

the lure of the oilfield attracted Robert, and he and his wife Gwen moved to Edmonton, where he has been employed in oil related industries ever since in all parts of the world - India, U.S.A. and N.W.T. They later adopted two sons, David and Mark. At present Robert and his two sons are working on a pipeline at Fort Simpson.

While still on the farm, Ted Allen had joined the Irma Elks Club and travelled from Mannville to Irma to attend meetings after his retirement. It was natural then that he was instrumental in forming the Mannville B.P.O.E. and Dorothy initiating the formation of the Order of the Royal Purple. She later held the office of Honored Royal Lady in 1963-64. Dorothy was also a very ardent worker for the Mannville Anglican Church, playing the organ in town and out at country churches for many years and was a member of Birch Creek W.I. Dorothy Allen is also to be remembered for her beautiful handwork, especially crocheting and tatting. With the advancing of years a life spent in hard work and chronic arthritis, Dorothy passed away in 1966 from a stroke.

Following the death of his wife, Ted sold his home in Mannville and went to live with son Robert in Edmonton. Ted's health was failing too and he passed away in Viking in 1969, where his son John was residing.

ELSWORTH ADELBERT (DUB) ALLEN

Elsworth (Dub) came to Irma with his parents in 1919. He married Williamina Margaret Walker, daughter of Willie Walker of the Roseberry school district and they made their home on N.W. 22-45-9 south of Irma, where they were engaged in farming. Dub and Margaret then moved to Edmonton for a short time where he was employed in carpenter work before moving back to Irma.

In 1941 Dub joined the R.C.A.F. and spent time overseas as a cook. On returning from the services in World War Two in 1946, they moved to a farm in the Avonglen district - N.W. 11-47-8. They farmed until the children were entering high school. In 1954 the family moved to Wainwright where Dub worked as a cook at Camp Wainwright. The children completed their high school and went on to further their education. Born to this family were five children - Charles, Florence, Esther, Carole and Doug.

Charles Elsworth married Sophie Mroczak and to this family were born two boys.

Florence Janet (Flo) married James Ganderton. They have three children, a boy and two girls. Flo has her R.N. in nursing and also a degree to teach nursing. They are residing in New Zealand.

Esther Rhoda married Albert Kestenkas and they have a boy and a girl. Esther is a physiotherapist and they make their home in Edmonton.

Carole Margaret (Kay) has two children, a boy and a girl. Kay has the position as Health Records Administrator at Lac La Biche.

William Douglas (Doug) married Lynda Little and they have two daughters. Doug is in the oil business in Wainwright.

Dub passed away in 1979 and Margaret is retired and lives in Wainwright. She has eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild and looks forward to their visits.

MR. AND MRS. FRANK ALLEN

by Bessie Russel

Frank Allen was born in England 1879. He came with his parents when just a boy to Ontario. He left school at a very young age and went to work at a market garden.

Frank decided to come west and got a job in a brickyard making bricks and later also worked on the C.N.R. railway near Highway 14 when it was built. He homesteaded on S.W. 28-45-10-W4th in 1908 and lived in a tent while he built a two room log and sod house. Trading off his three oxen he obtained a team of horses and harness.



Mr. Frank Allen in front of Siberian crab apple tree in bloom, June, 1960.

My mother, Florence Marchant, came with her folks from England to Beaton, Ontario, when she was four months old and lived there several years. At the loss of her hearing at the age of twelve, she left school and worked at home until she came to Brandon, Manitoba, to work as a housekeeper. As time passed she moved to Alberta where she met and married Frank Allen at Irma in 1910. She took pride in caring for her home, myself and William, better known as "Willie".

William worked at home for many years as well as working on various farms, stooking, threshing, and picking load after load of rocks. He now makes his home in the Vialta Lodge in Viking.

The frame house on the homestead was built in 1918 and still stands. The lumber of which it was built was hauled by team and wagon from Lougheed.

On our homeplace we had various types of animals along with twelve or fourteen milk cows.

As everyone else, we had our good and bad times, one of which was bad, was the year that our crops were completely hailed out.

Through the years my folks always grew a lovely garden and fruit trees. I can remember my mother washing vegetables, tying them in bunches and selling them in Jarrold for a few cents each.

Every week my mother would go to town by horse and buggy. She would take eggs and cream to be sold, getting her groceries and taking orders for the next week. As the years passed she had to quit going by herself when the years started to come on the roads for she could not hear them coming.



Mrs. Frank Allen

Along with her homelife she also helped the Red Cross by sewing for the soldiers and donating cream, eggs, etc. to be sold in the wartime.

Mrs. Allen lived all her married life on the homestead, she passed away in 1962 at the age of 83 years.

Frank spent his last years in the Wainwright Lodge. There he passed away in 1962, at the age of 83 years.

GERALD ALLEN VENTURES TO IRMA WITH PARENTS

by Doris Wakefield

In 1919, Dad came to a farm north and east of Irma with his parents Jesse and Rhoda Allen, where they took up residency on the same quarter as Avonglen was on. They moved across the road south and west (still in hearing distance) on the land of Ben Oldham's to make way for the Avonglen School to be built.

Before Avonglen was built, Dad took the teacher Miss Lola Mabey plus some of the children of the district to Orbindale school with team and sleigh or wagon, so they could have an education. The Avonglen school opened in 1921.

Dad married Gene Morse and they lived in a little house on my grandparents Allens' farm. That is where I was born.

Times were hard back then. My mother was reminiscing one day, and told us of the time they didn't have any meat, so she decided to have some for supper. Mom wasn't one to use a gun, but knew that was the only way. Out she went hunting, the first look of meat was a prairie chicken sitting in a tree. Taking a shot she missed, hitting the limb below. The bird sat there, to Mom's amazement. Trying again, she got it. "Sure tasted good" she said.

In February of 1933 or 34 they moved down to SW 23-46-8 south of Bill Lawson's (Bill owns it now) had everything on a rack and sleigh, the load sank through the snow and had to be left there until spring. It was a very mild winter with lots of snow.

I recall the time I was playing at my Grandmother Allen's, when I decided I wanted to go home. Well I started, unknown to my grandmother. I was headed the right direction but didn't turn the corner. I was up at New's Hill (as was known then), I was lost and scared.

Finally my Grandparents came along in, I believe it was a Model T Ford. I ran into the ditch, as I was afraid of the car. I sure was glad to see them, but not so happy after my grandmother got a hold of me.

We didn't have a water well, but Dad dug one about an eighth of a mile south of the house, the water had to be drawn out with a pail, but sure was good water.

We never went hungry. Mom always had a good garden, even if the potatoes were the size of golf balls some years. There were garden raids too, I know Mom lost peas and beans.

There was a family lived on SW 22-46-8 W4 by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Younker. They had two girls Jane and Etta. Etta was going to Roseberry school when I started. Dad decided we needed transportation. He purchased a Shetland pony, built a two-wheeled cart, and broke in the pony we called Bob. Dad or Mom would take the pony, cart, and me down to Younkens, you had to hold him, or he would run away. We'd climb in and Etta would say "O.K. let him go", he'd start out with a leap, and going full tilt wouldn't stop until we reached the school barn. Guarantee! we were never late for school or coming home. Oh yes, we were late one time; while we were leading Bob down to Younkens he backed the cart into the ditch of water, and there the cart was and he was on the road. That is where he stayed until Etta came to see what the problem was, and he came right out and we headed for school.

There wasn't any Health Care then, and I remember Dad having to sell some of his work horses to get medicine for Mom. You learned your own remedies to make the family well in those days.

The roads were made by manpower back in those days. Dad helped build up the road from north of Rome's to the corner north of Bill Lawson's. The only ones I can recall that worked on the road were Bill Lawson, John Saunderberg, Frank Younker, and Dad. I know Dad had his team and fresnoe moving dirt and packing with the float to level out the road.

Carleen and Jesse were born on the farm and Lowell was born in the Wainwright hospital.

Carleen and I started school at Roseberry school for three years, then Dad moved us down south of Irma to our Grandparents' farm (Allen's farm), that is being farmed now by McKays, and we went to Irma Public school; that's when Jesse started school. We weren't there too long until we moved back to SW 23-46-8, attended Roseberry for a year or two. Then they closed Roseberry and we had to go to Avonglen. This is where Lowell started school. We moved up to NW 1/4 26-46-8-W4, known as the Hudson Bay. Lamberts were there and they moved up to NE 10-47-8-W4. Dad mixed farmed for a few years, threshing with Alf Bacon's threshing crew and machine. That was always the exciting part of the year. Up at four-thirty a.m. making breakfast, lunch at ten, dinner, then lunch, supper at dark, very long days. Carleen and I looked forward to helping; we got leave of absence from school for harvest. It was a gamble to get your crop up, there weren't any combines like there are now. If it got wet, it stayed there until it was dry even if it was in May or June. There were times threshing was done after seeding was completed.



Gerald and Gene Allen, July, 1956.

In 1950, we moved to Irma and Dad and Jesse worked at the Army Camp, Dad as a cook, Jesse as labourer. Carleen and Lowell went to school in Irma. I married and moved to Fabyan. Dad, Mom, Carleen, Jesse and Lowell moved to Wainwright where Dad cooked at the Army Camp for years, and then went to carpenter work until bad health forced him to retire. Carleen worked at the Bank of Montreal, Wainwright. My Mother Gene passed away in November 1962, and Dad in January 1981.

The children of this family are Doris, Mrs. J. Cliff Wakefield, with three children Alvin, Agnes, (Mrs. Kelvin Buchanan) have three girls Patricia, Crystal and Candace. Mary, (Mrs. Barry Buchanan) one boy Barry Wayne, they call him Wayne. Agnes and her husband and family live in Wainwright, Mary, Barry and Wayne, in Vermilion, Alvin at Fabyan on the farm.

Carleen, Mrs. George Worthing Jr. their boys Kenneth, Edward and Terry. Edward married Judy Metcalfe, they have one little girl Tamalyn. Terry married Caron Erickson, they have two boys Scott and Camaron. Kenneth is in Edmonton, and the others all live in Wainwright.

Jesse married Connie Harris and to this family two boys and two girls. Evelyn married Marcel Primeau and have one son Steven. Jerry, Lloyd and Nancy are home and still in school. Evelyn is at Hinton, and the rest of the family at High River.

Lowell married Ilene Harris and have two girls and one boy. Jackie married Craig Almberg and live at Czar, farming. Sandra and Randy are attending school at Hardisty, where Lowell Allen and family are making their home.

Mom was known for her canned fruit, jams, jellies, canned chicken and meat.

JESSE ALLEN

Jesse Allen left North Dakota in the spring of 1904 to see what opportunities were available in Western Canada. His carpentry skills were useful as he helped push the railway westward. Later in the summer his wife Rhoda and small son Clifford joined Jesse in Wetaskiwin. They spent the winter of 1904-5 in Wetaskiwin where Mildred was born in August of 1904. Jesse took a homestead about six miles south of Strome. Here the family remained for some sixteen years. During this time Gerald, Lloyd, Maynard, Florence and

Ellsworth (Dub) were added to the family. In the spring of 1921 the family decided to make another move, this time to a farm north of Irma on the same section as Avonglen School. Clifford, Mildred and Ellsworth, a toddler at the time, remained behind to look after the homestead until all could be moved to Irma.

Shortly after moving to Irma, some of the children contracted scarlet fever and were quarantined for some time, so Mildred and the boys were forced to remain at Strome all spring. The house, clothing, etc. were carefully fumigated in hopes that Dub could not possibly be exposed to scarlet fever. However, when he joined the rest of the family he grabbed up a puppy to play with, as all children do, and two weeks later he was a sick little boy with scarlet fever. The puppy had been carrying the germs in its fur.



Rhoda and Jesse Allen with Clifford, Mildred, Gerald, Maynard, Lloyd.

Jesse raised Shetland ponies for many years and a number of Irma youngsters as well as his grandchildren learned to ride on one of Jesse's ponies. Rhoda was always busy: she helped out at homes of the sick, or with new mothers and babies. She was a dressmaker and also lined coffins which her husband built. She helped neighbors at harvesttime. In the spring of 1938 Jesse and his son Dub bought land south of Irma where Jack McKay now lives. In the fall of that year Jesse was killed in a railway crossing accident. Rhoda, Dub and his family remained on the farm until Dub joined the R.C.A.F. early in World War II. Rhoda moved to Irma, where she spent her remaining years. She looked after her aged mother, Mrs. Maine, for a time. For many years she nursed Mrs. Ernie Simmons, who was an invalid. Rhoda also boarded high school girls before the school buses came into use. In June of 1955 Rhoda left for an extended visit with friends in California. She became ill while there, and her daughter Florence brought her back to an Edmonton hospital, where she passed away in October of 1955.

Jesse's and Rhoda's family grew up and married in the Irma district. Clifford married Margaret Landers of Kinsella. They farmed in the Irma area for a time and eventually took over the family homestead at Strome until the early '40's when they moved to Violet Grove. They raised a family of six, four girls and two boys. One daughter predeceased him. Clifford passed away in 1966 and his widow in February of 1982.

Mildred worked for her board at Shaw's Hotel in Irma while she completed her high school, which was Grade 11 in those days. Working with her at the hotel were Dicka Fluevog (Hollinger) and Palma Berg (Masson). Mr. Wm. Masson was a hotel boarder. Mildred went from high school to Camrose Normal School where she received her teacher's certificate. She taught at North Rosyth, near Hardisty, and Lewisville School before marrying Orville Chase in 1926. They had one daughter, Marjorie.

Maynard Allen married Joe Landers of Kinsella, and they now reside at Violet Grove. They have a family of five, two boys and three girls. Gerald married Gene Morse and lived in the Irma-Wainwright area all his life, until his passing in January 1981. He raised two boys and two girls.

Lloyd made his home with his sister Mildred after she was widowed in 1929. He farmed Mildred's land until 1944 when illness forced him to retire. In 1945 he moved to Irma with Mildred and Marjorie. Although he was blind, he spent a good deal of time building small furniture for children he was fond of. He passed away in 1954.

Florence married George Clay of Paradise Valley, where they farmed for many years before moving to Hinton and later to Sicamous, B.C., where they now reside. They have two girls and a boy.

Ellsworth, or Dub as he was known to many, married Margaret Walker of Fabyan, and after returning from the R.C.A.F. he farmed, worked as a carpenter, and cooked at the Wainwright Army Camp before illness forced him to retire early. He passed away in 1979. He is survived by two sons and three daughters.

In July of 1981 the descendants of Jesse Allen held a family reunion at Hardisty Lake. This was attended by one hundred and twenty-five people, and many more were unable to be there.



Bill Lawson's first load of bundles after coming to Canada while helping harvest on Jesse Allen's in the Avonglen district.

JOHN B. ALLEN FAMILY

by Ruth Archibald

John Allen became actively involved in farming in the Salteaux district during 1937 when his parents, the E.B. Allens moved from the desolate and dried out region of Chinook to south of Mannville. He rented land five to six miles away in the Stellaville district and farmed with his father. After a few year's he grew tired of baching it on



John B. Allen

his own and following a couple of years courtship with Doris Hills, they were married on June 15th, 1942 in the Ted Allen home. Doris Hills had actually been born Doris Wright, but when her mother died, leaving her motherless at eighteen months of age, her father found it very difficult to raise a family of six children aged nine and under, by himself. A childless couple, Dorothy and James Hills, adopted Doris and raised her as their own.

On their honeymoon, John took his bride back to his former community at Chinook, where the drought had forced them to leave some five years earlier. It was ironic that they became stuck in the mud right up to their axles and had to walk with the mud squishing between their toes, so as not to ruin the "wedding shoes."

John obtained a lease on the Robert Service land of the famed poet, which was adjoining his in-law's farm, the James Hills. John and Doris struggled on this small farm with John breaking land for farmers, using a steel wheeled tractor and breaking plow. John also played for many dances, keeping a rhythmic tune on his drums, a talent which he had developed while attending Olds Agricultural College in 1934-37. Having no vehicle of his own, John traversed many a mile on his horse so rightly named "Wings."

The following year during a spring thaw, their first-born arrived on April 8th, 1943 - a son named James. It was a trying time for all when Doris was transported twenty some miles by means of a team and a democrat, then when time was getting short, a tractor and wagon were borrowed to make better time. The rush of the spring thaw had washed out the bridge at the Grizzly Bear Coulee one mile south of the hospital, so a detour had to be made a few extra miles to find a shallower spot to cross. By the time they reached the Mannville Hospital, Doris and her mother were spattered with mud and a very anxious Dr. Hasinoff and staff rushed out to meet them as they had heard hours earlier the expectant mother was on her way. Somehow the mission was accomplished and

all was well.

Daughter Ruth was born on October 8, 1944 during a warm Thanksgiving and in fact much threshing was done into November that year, even though a snowstorm had occurred in early October. Life was becoming very crowded in a cramped little shanty on their rented land, so in 1945 when a farm became available just one and one-half miles south from his folks' farm, John purchased the Lou Hardy farm from his wife Ruby, who by this time had remarried to Ken Matheson following her husband's death. The farm had lots of opportunity and it was actually theirs. This was the beginning of a life filled with much hard work and the raising of a large family.

It was at this time that the Allens progressed from farming with horses to mechanization with tractors and implements. John went into feeding cattle for Weiller and Williams and O.A. Brown, as well as keeping pigs and sheep. A U.F.A. bulk fuel agency was operated by John with the underground tanks located on his father's farm. John hauled thousands of gallons of fuel to farmers in the area while attending to all his farm duties, too. At this time much of the hay needed for the cattle was obtained from days of hard work spent making and hauling the hay many miles from the army campland. Mother talks of cooking for the threshers for twelve days at a time and that was without refrigeration or running water, and having to milk the cows in between meals, too.

Four more children were born to the family with Doreen arriving on November 20, 1946; Richard on March 6, 1948; Gerald on August 10, 1953; and Fay on February 24, 1957.

In June of 1949 a devastating fire lowered our big barn just minutes after our parents had finished the milking. The general alarm of five long rings brought everyone in the community to our aid. Although nothing could be done to save the structure, the men worked most of the night keeping the flying shingles from igniting the feed stacks and other buildings. It was a frightening experience in the eyes of a five year old. That summer good friends and neighbors worked in barn building bees to help us rebuild a new barn. In the eyes of a child it looked so large, but today it seems much smaller somehow. When the barn was completed our parents hosted a grand Hallowe'en masquerade in the loft. The women and children were gingerly helped up into the loft where a great time was had playing games, bobbing for apples in a big metal washtub and enjoying people's company. I remember one neighbor's boy falling backwards with a huge splash into the bobbing tub and having to wear towels inside his pants, as mother's boys weren't big enough to lend their trousers.

John and Doris took an active part in community affairs, helping wherever they could. It was during a volunteer job with the North Irma Telephone Company repairing lines that a crowbar fell from above, piercing John's hand. This accident was actually the beginning of a crippling condition in his hand, which later did hamper his ability to operate machinery.

Doris joined the W.I. as a charter member along with many other ladies of the district when it was organized in 1947. This organization provided much information, as well as social outings for the farm women.



Doris and John B. Allen family: Gerald, Richard, James, Doris, Ruth, Doreen and Fay.

It seems that it does not snow much nowadays, like it did way back then, for we remember one snowstorm when the snowdrifts were as high as the slab fences surrounding the yard, and a caterpillar we had for brushing land was used to open the road.

School for Sonny (James) and Ruth began in the one room school at Albert, one and one-half miles from home, which we walked to or rode on a stubborn shetland pony. I well remember the frozen lunches in a round yellow lard pail, and sitting around a heater to get warm. Those hot soup lunches made by Joan and Jean Fleming and Marjorie Matthews in the wintertime were delicious. However, changes were on the horizon, rural electrification arrived, John became involved in the School Board for nine years and the Albert Consolidated School was formed from the one room Albert School, the Avonglen School and the new construction to join the two schools. Children were now bussed from Orbindale, Education Point, Rodino, Echo and Albert to a school which offered instruction in grades one to ten with courses such as typing and home economics.

It seemed that some catastrophe was always around the corner. On a crisp fall morning of November 11, 1952, John was out feeding his hogs, but when he did not return for breakfast, Mother went out to find him in a torn heap by the water trough, where he had managed to crawl, but with the loss of blood did not have the strength to crawl over the corral fence. A boar pig had badly mauled his leg. A neighbor, Bob Johnson, was called to take John to Mannville Hospital, where he remained for some three months except for the few hours he had been allowed home on Christmas Day. His kneecap had been badly damaged, and with an open wound, which would not heal, Dr. Hasinoff said he would never walk again. With strong determination, John disproved this theory.

Many social gatherings were held in the enlarged school, with one of these being the Albert Square Dance Club the family was active in, as well as the Albert Busy Beavers Girls' Club, hockey on the outdoor rink on the hill and church led by Rev. Inglis and Sunday School. Life was busy for John and Doris, but they were never too busy to do things for their children, or the community. Doris and Gwen Allen became charter members of the Irma Order of the Royal Purple when it was in-

stituted in 1953.

I well remember the first car we had - a beautiful new 1954 red and white Pontiac. What a treat for mother and father and four children, after riding in that whining Ford truck.

When Uncle Bob left the farm we always had hired men around as my dad had expanded farming operations to include his own farm, my grandfather's, some rented land from my Grandfather Hill's, who was now Secretary of the Mannville Hospital, some Campbell Stewart land which we later purchased, rented land from uncle Herbert Johnston, and some land of Red Larson's. It seemed like a lot of land for that period of time (several sections) and my father worked day and night, so it seemed. I remember one fall we would not have finished combining if it were not for the assistance of Rick and Louis Larson, who often helped folk finish harvesting.

Another tragedy lurked around the corner when brother Gerald was attacked by a neighbor's dog, requiring sixty stitches to close the tears in his face, throat, mouth and head. Again the expertise of Dr. Hasinoff performed a remarkable job.

By 1960 John was beginning to feel that there must be an easier way to make a living, so he completed a course in auctioneering at Mason City, Iowa. In the spring of 1960 a farm auction was held and the farm was later sold to Hugh and Elsie Fleming. The family moved into Irma where John sold machinery for Stan Murray and held a few sales.

In September of 1962, eldest son James had already left home to make his way in the oil industry. Ruth enrolled in Education at the University of Alberta, and the rest of the family moved to Viking where Doris opened a dress shop and John began to have auction sales, as well as worked for Place Farm Equipment.

Again John and Doris were active in their community with Doris becoming Honored Royal Lady of the Order of Royal Purple, and John the Exalted Ruler of the Elks all in the same year. John served on the town council for ten years, and as school trustee for the County of Beaver for seven years. After Doris closed out her dress shop, John had a Cockshutt machine agency for a time and also initiated Double J. Auction Services. John had become a very successful auctioneer, serving a term as President of the Alberta Auctioneer's Association. Under his auspices, the Charity Auctions in aid of the Mentally Retarded were first organized. John was keenly interested in aid of the Retarded Children, and worked hard to top the sales in his area. John also contributed frequently to the 4-H with his gratis auctioneering at their field days. He was active in the pony chariot races, announcing locally and provincially. Doris worked for a number of years at the Viking Hospital.

By this time, daughter Doreen had completed a nursing aide program. She later became Alberta President of the Nursing Aide Association. By taking university courses in personnel administration and management, she is now a Senior Labour Relations Officer with the Alberta Government. She married Gerry Gares of Viking, who is a partsman with Ford of Canada and they reside in Edmonton with a daughter, Julaine, and son, Tyler.

Brother Richard began a career with Fountain Tire of

Viking and has been a manager of the Fountain Astro Tire Shop on Argyll in Edmonton for some twelve years now. He married the former Joan Tokus of Mannville, and they live in Edmonton with daughter, Viola and son Dion and daughter, Tanya. Richard obtained his auctioneering diploma at Mason City, Iowa and auctioned at a number of sales with his dad. Joan also completed the course a few years ago and they now operate Double J. Auction together in their spare time.

James made his way in life in oilfield related industries and more recently in logging. He married the former Annette Brissard of Viking who had two daughters, Janine and Shawna, and they have a thirteen year old son, Shayne. They lived in Leduc for a number of years, but have made their home in Fort St. John for eight years. Daughter Janine is married with a baby girl, Alisha.

After completing her education program at the U. of A., Ruth taught school in Edgerton for two years, then married Garry Archibald of Irma. Gerald has held various positions in salesmanship and is a representative for Malkin and Pinto industrial supplies. He has two adopted sons from his first marriage and plans to be remarried this year.

Fay worked in a bank in Edmonton after completion of high school, and then worked for Dr. Mann, dentist at Viking as a receptionist, following her marriage to Jerry Hafso of Viking in 1978. They reside on a farm north of Viking and have a two year old daughter, Carrie.

In June of 1972 John underwent open heart surgery which proved very successful for the next six years. It was during that six year period John enjoyed a successful auctioneering career and worked for the Vermilion Agrimart for three and one-half years.

After living in Viking for some eleven years, John and Doris sold their home and moved to Vermilion to reside in a trailer at the Agrimart. Doris had various jobs in stores and at the Islay hospital. John suffered a massive heart attack and passed away very suddenly in the Vermilion Hospital on February 6, 1978. Following John's death, Doris remained in Vermilion for three years, then sold her house and moved to Edmonton, where she bought a condominium. Doris has always had a job since her children were young and still continues to do so, enjoying fairly good health. She loves to return for a visit to see her friends at Mannville, Albert, Irma, Viking and Vermilion where all her roots and memories are.

MAYNARD ALLEN FAMILY

Maynard Allen was born March 31, 1911 at Strome, Alberta and attended Hauses School. At age nine he moved to Irma with his parents and attended school at Orbindale until Avonglen school was completed. He continued school until he was fifteen when he quit and worked on his parents' farm until 1936.

On August 4, 1936 he married Arlee Joe Landers and their first child Eunice was born September 8, 1937. In the spring of 1939 they moved to Strome and farmed the old homestead of his parents. On July 5, 1941 Lee Harley was born. Maynard, Joe and family moved to Violet

Grove in 1942 where Maynard worked in lumber camps. Dona Loraine was born on October 4, 1942 and Lanny Myles on March 3, 1949. Maynard purchased a general store in Violet Grove in 1950 and operated it until 1964. Faith Janell was born on July 21, 1957. Maynard started an oilfield maintenance business in 1965 and continued until retiring in 1978 in Violet Grove.



Dave Ambler wife, Mary (Clarkson) and children, Art and Elwin.

THE DAVE AMBLER FAMILY

by Gladys Ambler

In Toronto March 10th, 1908, my father, David Ambler, married Eliza Whitehead. It was a second marriage for my Dad. They moved to Wetaskiwin where a year later my brother Ed was born and about the same time my half-brother George died. Then they moved to Irma to a place near what we called old 32 - north of the Ross school. Those were the days of prairie fires going through nearly every year. Our mother often told us of one such fire when Ed was six weeks old. Our Dad had gone off to help fight the fire and Mom took Ed out to the middle of the slough until it passed. Irma was barely a town then. Our half-brother Arthur had a poolroom there which later burned. There was no doctor in Irma at this time. By now we were living on 32.

I must tell you that every time we moved we had a new addition to the family - hence I, Gladys, was born on 32 in May, 1912. Having no doctor in Irma, the doctor had to come from Wainwright, I was two or three days old by the time he arrived.

Two children were a little much for our city born mother to cope with, so our Dad sent to Boston for Mom's maiden aunt to join us, which she did, when I was

a month old. Aunt Sarah lived with us through thick and thin until she died in 1938. We will never forget her. I think that if an angel ever lived on this earth, it was Aunt Sarah - the best baby sitter and confidante a family ever had.

Now in 1913 we moved to Edmonton for a short time and as I mentioned before, another addition to the family that November - David by name. While there our half-brother Arthur died in summer of 1914.

Then back to Irma to what we called the Smithy place - one half mile north of the Ross school, the N.E. 28-46-9-W4th, the school on the S.E. 28-46-9-W4th. Our half-sister Eva came to live with us there, also our half-brother Elwin. It was war years now. With the move we collected another girl in August, 1915 by the name of Susie.

In about 1916 the school had a fire. Ed ran home to tell our Dad. I barely remember the incident, but remember our Dad running with the axe and later seeing the hole in the platform that he chopped to save the school. It was very exciting.

Our Dad wasn't the greatest farmer, just took up farming I think because it was the thing to do, although he had a steam engine and separator for threshing. The engine and separator provided us with a place to play all summer long.

Beside his family, our Dad's greatest love was horses. We had a wild herd of horses and when the winters were hard the coyotes were dangerous to the young colts on the range. One such winter one of the wild mares came charging right up to our door - something that would never happen with a wild animal, they would stay miles away on the range. Knowing something awful must have happened, Dad followed her and she led him to where the coyotes had killed and eaten her colt.

One summer our Dad brought home a coyote cub to try to tame it. All was o.k. when it was small - so very playful and cute, but it wasn't long before it got mean and the only one who could go near it was Susie, because she was small and it related to her, she could even sleep beside it. When Ed or Dave or I went near, it would snarl and chase us away. Finally we had to get rid of him.

I remember the Christmas concerts at the school. At one such concert Dad was the chairman and a fellow by the name of Billy Gale was Santa. We all received a present off the tree. Ed got a sled and I an Eskimo doll and a box of beads. Those little beads just fascinated me, I can see them yet. I made yards and yards of necklaces with them.

There were lots of dances at the school and Mom and Eva would get all dressed up and Dad and Elwin would take them. Elwin was so protective of Eva. She used to say he watched her like a hawk.

Eva and Ed used to go muskrat hunting. They knew just where to set the traps and later bring in the catch. They shaped shingles and stretched the skins over these to dry. I forget what they used to get - something like seventy five cents for the good ones, but it still was lots of sport. In the summer they used to get one cent per gopher tail - quite a business. Also in the summer it was hawk eggs they hunted. Seems they walked miles and miles. I went with them once. I was a nuisance because I got tired and thirsty and wanted to go home long before they

reached their quota.

Now the war ended and the flu started. The only person to leave our farm was our Dad. He went to town periodically to get supplies. Mom made masks for him, boiled them and was very careful for fear we would get the flu too. We escaped but many many people didn't. I remember it was a sad world for awhile. Dr. Murray McGregor was the doctor in Irma then. He died a few years later and I remember people saying there never was a road too long, or a night too dark for him to go to the assistance of anyone in trouble.

Next move we went to Edmonton for a short stay on our way to the Coast. Mom wasn't too impressed with the climate in B.C. but with the move we gained another sister, Lily by name. That was just before Christmas. In the spring of 1920 we left Eva with my Dad's two sisters in Victoria and went back to Irma, but to a different location - S.E. 14-46-9-W4th.

We started school this time at Alma Mater. The first teacher we had was Mr. Cameron, then Mrs. Ed McDowell took over. What a great teacher she was and a wonderful little lady. Remember the Christmas concerts? She worked very hard with us, we will never forget her.

We lost our half-brother Elwin in 1922, but with the move back to Irma we gained a brother, Robert by name, in April, 1923. That was the year we all had whooping cough and went to school anyway. Nearly everyone at school had it, so no point in staying home.

Sunday school and church was held at Alma Mater. Mom played the organ for church and Rev. Elliott was the minister. Every summer there was a church picnic. All the churches combined for this and what crowds there were. Sometimes the location was Irma fairgrounds and sometimes elsewhere. We had lots of good food, ice cream and pop etc. Races and various games were held.

Halloween too, was quite a time. I remember one when Ed and another boy went to the school and made an awful mess, wood piled on the teacher's desk and seats turned upside down etc. It wasn't quite so funny the next morning when Mrs. McDowell called on Ed and the other boy to put everything back in order, which they did without a word. Long after, we found out who did it. I think Mrs. McDowell knew but never let on.



Dave Ambler, wife Georgina and family, Eva, Ed, Gladys, David.

Life soon became difficult for us on the farm. Our Dad had become ill and couldn't work and Ed was too young to take over. I really don't know what we would have done if it wasn't for our good neighbors, the A.A. Fischers. Mrs. Fischer was never too busy to give us a helping hand. She was a great lady and will never be forgotten.

Our Dad died in May, 1924 so we left Irma that fall for Edmonton. We spent the next few decades there, but by the early fifties we had all moved to Vancouver. The only one to return to Edmonton was our niece, our Mother's only grandchild who is now Dr. P. Browne, associated with the Department of Education at the University of Alberta.

Our Mother died December 1st, 1982, nearly 96, so had many more years than most - some of the happiest were left in Irma a long time ago.

GEORGE AMBLER

George Ambler settled in the district now known as Albert in 1905. There were no near neighbors and George later spoke of seeing no one for sixty days. George and Zylph were married in 1909 and lived for awhile in a log shack.

Bob Guy of the Orbindale district was their nearest neighbor. One year he used flat boards to ski over to Amblers for Christmas Day. As time went by Bob joined the Amblers for Christmas Day for twenty-six years.

Some of their neighbors during the early times were Art and Jeanie Sproule; Mr. Barss, Hal, Layton and Fred; Fred Cail; Fred and Bill Matthews; George and Lew Hardy and the Jack Jones family. They spent many happy times together skating on their lake.

A most terrifying experience was the prairie fire of 1909, which, fanned by a terrific wind, burned over the country near them. The Sproules and several other families lost all their grain and feed.

George and Zylph had seven children. Leola was born in 1910 and married Carl Finch. She lives in Flin Flon, Manitoba. Zylph Eunice (Duffie) was born in 1911 and is deceased. Lorena Jeanette (Renie) was born in 1912 and is now Mrs. Campbell living at Hardisty. Andrew George (Sandy) was born in 1916 and lives at Ashcroft, B.C. Ruby Ellen was born in 1923 and is Mrs. William Smith of Nanton, Alberta. Josephine Rose, born in 1927, married Anthony Soneff of Irma. They live in B.C. Hulda, born in 1929, married a school teacher, Harold Ross from Viking. Both are deceased.

George Ambler passed away in 1935.

In 1940 Zylph Ambler married Jake Meyer. She passed away in 1983.

George Ambler raised hundreds of horses. He was a good rider and rode in local stampedes. George had a good sense of humor.

AMBLER FAMILY

Amblers came from Tara, Ontario, near Owen Sound. They came to the Ross school district somewhere around 1909. There were three brothers in that area and their families, and another brother lived at Minburn. First

there was Ben Ambler and his wife Jane. They had five children, Myrtle, who married Earl Denison, Harvey Denison's youngest brother. They later moved to Idaho and then Muriel, who married Ezra Denison, Wilbur who used to reside around Irma, and Ken and Maudie who came back to Ontario, after their parents moved back east about 1924. They are all deceased, except Maudie.

Ben Ambler was no stranger to homesteading, as he had farmed in North Dakota before his marriage, and before coming to Irma he had homesteaded at Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Ken lived with Ezra and Muriel Denison for a number of years before going east.

Matt Ambler was another brother who came west. His wife was the widow Mary Brown. She was a sister of Mrs. Ben Ambler. Mary had a son by her previous marriage, (Chester Brown of Irma). Matt and Mary had two boys of their own, Gordon and Clarkson (Tamrack). Matt died at an early age.

Dave Ambler was another brother, his first wife died young, they had two boys, Art and Elwin and a daughter, Eva. At one time he was supposed to have owned seven hundred horses. He used the D7 brand. He died at around forty-six years of age. They said three years after his death, they were still rounding up D7 horses. They said he used to spend Sundays with his gang of men breaking horses to ride and drive.

Gerald Ambler, who was Bill's son from Minburn, became a world champion rodeo rider.

MATHEW CLARKSTON (TAM) AMBLER

Tam Ambler was born in Ontario on August 1st, 1900. He as the older of two sons, Mathew and Gordon. His mother had one other son, Chester Brown, from a previous marriage.

The family moved out to Alberta when Tam was young. They lived where Art Pierce lives today. Tam only had one year of schooling as education was not compulsory at that time. His father died when he was in his teens and his mother died in 1926. Tam continued to live with Chester Brown. He worked at home and hunted coyotes with his hounds. He bought a Titan tractor and threshing machine and did custom work.

On September 16th, 1934, he married Bessie Mark and had a ready-made family, two stepchildren, Ralph and Louise Mark.

Tam and Bessie worked hard to support their family, raising acres of potatoes together with other garden produce. They raised chickens, milked cows and fed pigs. It is said that Tam distilled some of the best firewater in the country.

Their first house was made of logs and mud, consisting of three rooms, kitchen, front room and bedroom. This was heated with wood burned in the kitchen stove and a tin heater. Tam had the heater so hot one time the logs started to burn. He had to chip away the mud on the outside in order to get water to the logs.

By the time the children were married Tam had increased his livestock to quite a herd of cattle. Bessie raised chickens and turkeys to sell.

In 1956 Tam contracted polio and spent some time in Edmonton. Ever after he wore a brace on one foot and



Tam and Bessie Ambler.

leg.

Bessie worked for nearly a year on the Dew Line at Tuktoyatuk on the Arctic Ocean. At the time of her death on January 24th, 1964, she was working for a bridge construction crew between Banff and Calgary at Cochrane. She died of monoxide poisoning caused from a leak in a new kitchen stove in the bunkhouse.

Tam died December 27th, 1965 of a heart attack. They are both buried in the Irma Cemetery.

M. C. Ambler

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ALLEN ANDERSON STORY

I was born December 11, 1919 and lived on the land my dad homesteaded in about 1908. When I was about two years old my mother passed away. I was then raised by Mr. and Mrs. John Watson till I was twelve years old. They lived a mile away from home and were one of the first homesteaders in the district. After my father remarried I returned home and took all my schooling through grade eight at Ross School. I rode an old loping grey mare to school and as a six year old, remember many a cold two mile ride in winters facing a northwest wind.

After I quit school I worked at home and for local farmers. The summer of 1941 Bob Burr and myself went to Hamilton, Ontario to work. We rode the rods as far as Winnipeg. I remember the railroad cop chasing us through the wet brush and grass. From there we took the



Mr. and Mrs. Allen Anderson.

bus to Hamilton where we worked at war production. We came back to Irma in 1942. I drove a cat for Bill Love the rest of the summer, then worked at a logging camp at Whitecourt that winter.

The summer of 1943 I rented my dad's land. In 1944 I came to Lloydminster and started working on road construction for a number of years. I was married to Edna Leitheiser from Neilburg, Saskatchewan, November 5, 1945 and we lived in Lloydminster for a number of years. In 1955 the call of the land beckoned so we moved out to start farming at Blackfoot, Alberta. We are still there but as it is time to slow down, we have rented the land out.

We do a bit of travelling but hope to do more in the future. We have taken up old-time dancing the last two years and enjoy it very much. We have a family of four boys who are all on their own. Now we plan on spending the winters where it is a little warmer as we have had enough of these cold winters but like it on the farm in the summer.



Charlie Anderson in front of a stone fence built for Ross McFarland, Sr. in 1934-35, house is now owned by E.R. Jackson. Stone fence was built to pay for grocery bill.



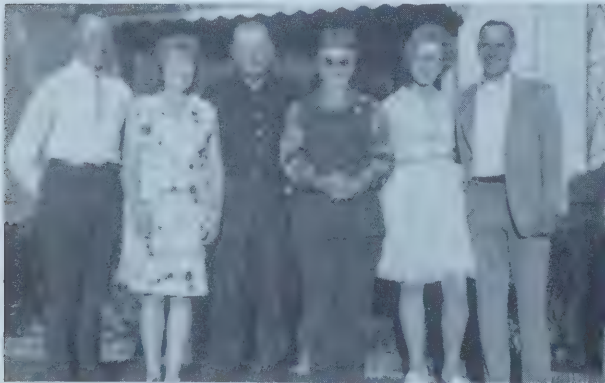
Charlie and Annie Anderson on their 25th anniversary.

CARL AUGUST ANDERSON

by Allen Anderson

Charlie Anderson first immigrated from Sweden to the U.S.A. and worked in logging camps and railroad construction for about two years. He then went back to Sweden for about a year before coming to Canada. Charlie worked for a number of years before taking a homestead at Irma about 1908, N.E. 16-46-9. He built a two room log house which was lived in till 1944. Then a move was made four miles north of the homestead when the mortgage could not be kept up during the depression years. The mortgage was taken out to buy this quarter. After proving up the homestead, Charlie was married to Mary Larson, also an immigrant from Sweden.

To this union were born two daughters. Ellen born in 1918 was married to Sherman Prosser and they had one daughter Lorna, who is married and lives in Prince Edward Island. Ellen and Sherman were divorced. Ellen is now married to Fred Speargburg and lives in Edmonton, where they are retired.



Allen and Edna, Bob, Anne, Ellen and Fred.

Ann was born in 1921 and is married to Bob Davis. They have no family and live at Lancaster, Penn., U.S.A.

One son, Allen was born in 1919 is married and they have four sons. They live at Blackfoot, Alberta.

Mrs. Anderson passed away when the children were still very young, and they were raised by kind neighbors, till our father was remarried. Then the children were brought back home till they left and went on their own.

After a few years living on the north land Charlie and Annie moved to Edmonton to retire. Charlie passed away July 8, 1958 at age of 80 years. Annie has since remarried and lives in Edmonton.

MR. AND MRS. W.A. ANDERSON

by Jean Anderson (Wilkinson)

Mrs. W.A. (Jean) Anderson, nee Wilkinson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Mickey) Wilkinson, immigrated to the Jarrow district with her parents and a brother, Jack, in the late spring of 1929. Later three sisters and a brother were added to the family. We resided on the farm until moving into Kinsella town in 1943 as my father and brother, Jack, were both active in the armed forces at the time. Dad was in the Veterans' Guards and Jack in the Manitoba Dragoons.

I took my schooling in Jarrow, Kinsella and Edmonton, later working in the Red and White store in Kinsella. The owner at the time being Robert Witton and later George Paterson. I left Kinsella when I married Bill Anderson in 1946. After much travelling (with the oil industry) we made our home in Calgary, and have a family of four, one boy and three girls (all living in Alberta) and seven grandchildren. (My father passed away in July of 1973).

I have many, many happy memories of friends and times in the Jarrow and Kinsella communities.

The names of our family are William W. Anderson; Karen J. McLeod; Laura D. Anderson and Catherine L. Forsyth.

W.M. (BILL) ANDERSON

by Bill Anderson

I had my first sighting of the village of Irma in June 1909, when passing through as an employee of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway engineering department, with the survey party in charge of Mr. H.G. Jamieson, resident engineer. We were bound for Kinsella to go along with the railway track-laying westward. The track was laid through Irma in the fall of 1909, with the village in the process of newly constructed buildings.

My next connection with Irma was in July 1917, when Mr. Jamieson purchased Sec. 2-46-8 from G.A. Green, together with the livestock and implements. The farm buildings were located in the middle of the section, and were later moved to the present location. Mr. Cecil King lived on the property prior to Mr. Green. In later years Mr. Jamieson added to his holdings in acquiring the south half of section 3, in order to have additional pasture for his cattle herd.

Our closest neighbours were the J.G. Clark and W.B. Steele families, and others remembered were Mr. and

Mrs. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Littlechild, Mr. Leemaster, Mr. Lacroix and W. Santee. At that time, some of the vacant land in the surrounding area had been originally homesteaded and in 1919 was taken over by returned veterans under the Soldier Settlement Act, which brought the Batchelor, Milton, Adams and Walker families into the district. About this time the Taylor and Savard families and Mr. H. Farthing also settled.

Our local Post Office was Clark Manor which was located in Mr. Clark's residence, with the mail going out and coming in twice a week. Roseberry was the closest school, where Miss Clark taught the pupils for several years, and where church services were held, as well as social activities.

I kept bachelor's quarters until April 1921, when I married my wife Elsie. We were away from the farm in 1926, and from 1928 to 1932 inclusive when I was on Mr. Jamieson's construction work. While I was away, others carried on the farm duties. We left the Irma district in December 1941.

The village of Irma in 1917 was quite a progressive centre, and served a large surrounding area. Some of the business people remembered are: H.W. Love, General Store; Jack Tate, Clerk of the Municipality; P.E. Jones, Transfer and Imperial Oil Agent; George Tripp, Implements; Harvey Patterson, Livery Barn; P.J. Hardy, Lumbryard; M. McLeod, blacksmith; Charlie Lattner, Machine Shop; L. Guiltner, Ed. McDowell and Bert Long. McFarland opened their General Store in 1917.

My wife and I are now living in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Anderson was deceased in October 1981.

CARL ANQUIST

by Myrtle (Anquist) MacIntosh

Carl Anquist came to Canada from Sweden in 1915 at the age of nine years. In company with his mother and two older brothers they settled at Amisk, with the eldest brother who had immigrated the previous year. In or about 1928 he moved to Irma to work for Alfred Carbol in his garage. He later worked for John Ostad and took on the John Deere agency and B.A. Oil farm sales. As time progressed he enlarged his place of business on Main Street and sold household appliances, radios and T.V.'s. A service shop was set up in the rear for the building for the servicing of tractors and machinery. The front of the shop was used as the local Sunburst bus stop for many years.

He married Myrtle Barnes of Castor in 1940 - they had four children, Harold, Eileen, Gordon and Lorne. All are married - Lorne residing in Irma, Harold and Gordon in Edmonton and Eileen in Guelph, Ontario.

Harry Riley drove the fuel truck for many years, then Charlie Savard took over when Harry left in 1955 to marry, and took a trip to England.

Due to ill health, the business was sold in 1962 to Haakon Larson - Carl passed away in 1966. He was an avid curler, giving support and backing when the first rink was erected.



Curtis, Darin, and Shanon, Margaret and Sonny.

ALMON AND MARGARET ARCHIBALD

by Margaret Archibald

Almon Arthur Archibald better known as Sonny, was born to Charles and Grace Archibald in Wainwright. He received his education at Ross and Irma Schools.

I, Margaret Louise Oracheski, youngest daughter of William and Louise Oracheski was born in Viking. I attended school at Batt up to grade eight, in Wainwright for three years and then completed grade twelve at Irma High School. I took a secretarial course at McTavish Business College in Edmonton and after finishing worked for the Department of Labour.

On April 8, 1961 Sonny and I were married. We lived in the original John Watson house in Sonny's parents' yard.

When Sonny decided to take farming seriously, he purchased the original Irma homestead of his grandfather, John H. Archibald. In 1968 we purchased and moved to the home quarter of Charlie Pyle, one half mile north of Irma. We added to the existing house and it is now a spacious, comfortable home. In 1973 we purchased the Reinhold Stach half section and recently purchased more land from Westbrook Developments, giving us an adequate sized grain farm of thirteen quarters. As a change from farming Sonny has dealt in selling Behlen Grain Bins since 1970.

On December 4, 1962 our first son, Curtis Blaine was born. Curtis took his schooling at the Irma School and graduated in 1981. He worked for Lakeland Insulations for one and a half years at various points in Alberta. Curtis enjoyed Cubs, Sea Cadets and 4-H, but his real love is music. At the age of four Curtis showed his music ability by singing at many talent shows. He was a hit with his version of the song Winchester Cathedral. When he was twelve, along with three friends, he started his first band called Black Midnight. Later, with a few changes in personnel, the band was named Heritage. In June 1983 Curtis moved to Edmonton and is presently lead singer and manager of a top forty rock band called Bare Essentials. They are travelling to many locations throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Our second son, Darin Almon was born May 11, 1967. Darin enjoys hockey, softball, basketball, and all other

sports. He is presently in grade eleven in Irma High School.

To complete our family our third son, Shanon Kraig arrived March 25, 1971. Shanon also enjoys all sports, triking and is a member of the Sea Cadets. He is at present in grade seven.

All three boys were members of the Cub movement and the 4-H Beef Club. Together with their dad they all enjoy farming.

In 1977 our family was selected and honored with the Farm Family Award in our area.

Sonny is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Chamber of Commerce, Co-op and various other organizations.

I have worked at the Bank of Montreal in Irma full and part-time since 1961 and am presently employed part-time at Irma Post Office. I helped with the Cubs for several years and was leader for two years. I am involved with the Royal Purple, Irma Bandaiders, Craft Club and other organizations.

CHARLIE AND GRACE ARCHIBALD

written by Grace (Peterson) Archibald

Charlie Archibald was born in Hanover, Ontario and was three years old when he came with his parents, John and Josie Archibald to Sunnyslope, Alberta. Here they lived until he was nineteen years old. Then they moved to a farm four miles north of Irma, E 1/2 of 21-46-9-W4. He lived at home and worked for his dad. In 1921 he married Dorothy Renwick. They had two sons, George and Lawrence. Shortly after Lawrence was born, Dorothy passed away and Charlie's parents took the little boys into their home.

In 1925 Charlie bought a half section of land and built a small house and straw barn. In the winter, he cut brush for other farmers and caught coyotes to make money. (picture No. 1). Charlie was always interested in sports so he played baseball on Sports Days. Quite a few young men of the district would come to Charlie's shack and they would have boxing matches. He later treated them to homemade soup and stewed prunes for dessert. It was at this time that Charlie's boxing career got started. He always had curly hair so was called the "Curly Kid". Charlie had an impressive record in the square circle having forty-two fights and losing only seven of them. Many of his fights were over in the first round. As a highlight to his career, he was crowned Western Canada's lightweight Champion.

We were married in July 1930. Our home was the fourteen by twenty-four shack which Charlie had bached in. We soon partitioned off a bedroom and built on a porch. I had board floors to scrub so was thrilled when Charlie came home from a boxing bout in Ponoka with a piece of linoleum for the kitchen floor. We were blessed with seven children, five girls: Jennene, Lorna, Vivian, Colleen and Irene, and two sons: Almon and Garry. When the third girl arrived we built two rooms on the west end of the shack. Then when the seventh arrived we built three rooms to the east end. One was a large kitchen, much to my delight, as George had also come to live with us.

Our lives were always very busy. In those days, you



Charlie Archibald Family. Standing: Lorna, Irene, Vivian, Colleen, Jennene. Seated: Charlie, Gary, Sonny, Grace.

could get a "hired girl" to help with the household chores. Some of my helpers were Eileen and Gladys Meakins, Adeline and Greta Larson and Margaret Lockhart. At times, they were truly a godsend. For my large family I had to can hundreds of quarts of vegetables and meat each year. We also cured hams and bacon. When the saskatoons were plentiful, we would pack a dinner and head for the patch. Next day we would can as many as 250 quarts of fruit. I loved to bake and cook. One day a week was set aside for making twenty loaves of bread and buns.

At seeding and harvesttime, we had a number of "hired men". Some of the names of these helpers were Basil Ingle, Dick Yoeman, Glen Hockett, Delbert Coffin, Carl Mikkelson, William Jenkins, John and Mighton Archibald, Victor Carter, Bill Blades, Jim Thompson, Allen Anderson, Ken Farr, Bill Waugh, Andrew Mochinski and Tom and Joe Averill. I suppose I have missed some names. We owned and operated a threshing outfit which, as many recall, involved long days of hard work. Charlie took his outfit many miles to thresh grain for his friends. Sometimes he would be gone for nearly a whole month. In 1942, we bought the first self-propelled combine in the district so it later took over the threshing job. (picture No. 2)

In 1941, Charlie was elected as councillor in District seven for the Wainwright Municipality. He held this office up to the time of his passing, making a total of thirty-seven years. He served as Reeve from 1954 up to and including 1968. Being councillor also makes one open to other commitments. Charlie took his turn on the Agricultural Service board, E.M.D., Wainwright and Provost Auxiliary hospital and Nursing home boards. Also the Battle River foundation and Wainwright and Hardisty Hospital Boards. These many commitments took my husband away from home alot, sometimes for a week or so to conventions. That's when all kinds of things went wrong at home. The sheep would get out, the old sow would farrow and the horse would pound a hole in the chop bin, eat a big feed and die. Charlie and I also took time for community activities. One of his greatest

dreams was the starting of the Irma Co-op store. He was chairman of the board for many years. I joined Buffalo Coulee W.I. and still look forward to our monthly meetings. Charlie was a Mason and I am a member of the Eastern Chapter and the O.O.R.P. Through the above organizations and others, we have met some of the finest people in the world.

We had really good neighbors, the Alf Larson and Louie Larson families and we had so many happy get-togethers going to dances and social events. Maxine Larson and I used to visit back and forth. We would bake goodies all day or sew for our fourteen children. For years at Christmastime, Maxine would make the Christmas puddings and I the Christmas cakes. Then we would exchange. We had fun taking the cream to town in the Bennet wagon and team and do our shopping. In harvesttime while the men were out threshing we would help one another with the chores. With so many children the same age, there was never a dull moment. They were either playing ball, doing acrobatics or fighting.

During the late forties and early fifties, we ventured into purebred Aberdeen Angus and our farm became "Archibald Hill". Charlie took great pride in his black cattle, but some of you know the time it takes to keep the record book straight. We finally gave it up when our sons began farming with us. When I see a herd of blacks today, they bring back a flood of happy memories.

In later years each July, one Sunday was set aside for the Charlie Archibalds, Jim Kennedys, Bill Dootsons and Ernie Rae families to have a big picnic. We all had July wedding anniversaries and had some good times together. Many times we gathered at the Fabyan campsite.

Our children attended Ross school. Albert Larson had a covered cutter with a stove in it and he used to pick up our children in the wintertime, otherwise they rode horseback or went in the buggy. I sure had to bake lots of bread to keep up with the school lunches.

Shortly after our youngest son Garry started school, Lawrence brought his sons home for us to care for, Larry, three and Wayne, not quite two. I'm sure I couldn't have coped with my second family without the help of my own family. They stayed with us for thirteen years, then Lawrence remarried and they went to Thompson, Manitoba to live.

When the girls started high school in Irma, they stayed with my mother, Mrs. Jennie Peterson. Sometimes they rode horseback or bicycle to school. They generally came home on weekends to help. There seemed to be lots of work to do, looking after livestock and doing farmwork and helping with the housework.

When Jennene finished high school, she went to Wainwright to work in the Bank of Montreal and later was secretary in the M.D. office for a couple of years. She met Lorne McLeod, and they were married in 1953 and have a family of three, Douglas, Susan and Linda. For many years they made their home in Wainwright, but now reside in Red Deer, Alberta.

Lorna, after she graduated, worked in the Irma Co-op store until she met and married Edward Jackson in 1952, and to this union, five children were born; Noreen, Phyllis, Robert, Charlie and Howard.

Vivian finished high school and was able to get a

position in the Wainwright M.D. office. She married Keith Firkus and four boys were born; David, Lyle, Dale, and Mark.

Colleen went in training at the Misericordia hospital to get her R.N. after she graduated from Irma high school. On April 28, 1958 she received her diploma and is still a dedicated R.N. at the Royal Alex hospital in Edmonton. In 1959, she married William Moffat and they were blessed with three boys, Bill Jr., Robert and Allan. Colleen and her family reside in Sherwood Park.

Irene also graduated from the Irma high school, her venture was to the city of Edmonton where she got a position in the City Hall. Irene and Colleen were able to share the same apartment for awhile until she met Walter Lawrin and that ended her secretarial career. They were married in 1959, and made their home in Edmonton for awhile. After their three children were born, Carlotta, Laurie and Walter Jr., they moved to Chilliwack, B.C. where they now reside.

Almon, better known as "Sonny" married Margaret Oracheski on April 8, 1961, and they live a mile north of Irma. They have three sons, Curtis, Darin, and Shanon.

Our youngest, Garry, married Ruth Allen in 1966. They live on the homeplace and have one son Sheldon, and a daughter, Shantelle.

George and his family made their home at Rocky Mountain House. He had two sons, Charlie and Danny. George passed away in 1983.

Lawrence has eight children and they are spread throughout Canada. His son Larry was killed in a car accident in the early 1970's. All my children love music and for many years, the girls played instruments in Coultmans' orchestra. We get together for special occasions and the evening always ends with a sing-song around the piano. Many of my grandchildren are musically inclined also. Each year the family circle gets wider. I now have great-grandchildren.

My beloved husband, Charlie, passed away in 1977 after a lengthy illness. I'm residing at Chacutenah Manor in Irma and am fortunate to have good health. I am happy to have my big family living so close to me and I see them often. There has been a guiding hand to help me over the rough spots in my life for which I am truly grateful. I have had lots of good friends and neighbors to help share our years in Irma.

GARRY ARCHIBALD FAMILY

by Garry Archibald

Life for me began on a frosty morning of December 17th, 1941 in the Wainwright Hospital where I was born the seventh child, and second son to Charles and Grace Archibald. I was responsible for my mother missing Christmas with the six sisters and brothers at home, but then she probably needed the rest anyway.

I attended Ross School until grade four when centralization brought the country children to town by the use of busses. I have many memories of the one room school at Ross, such as baking potatoes for lunch in a pot bellied stove, and the cream on the top of the jar of milk in my lunch bag being transformed into droplets of butter, while being jostled on the horse during the two mile ride.



*Garry and Ruth
Archibald; Sheldon
and Shantelle.*

As a kid it seemed there were always many people at our place, for it was not unusual to have twenty people seated at the Sunday dinner table. Then there were the skating parties on the lake with crowds of kids. With my older sisters and brother in the 4-H club, I too, joined when I became old enough.

At age thirteen I joined the Wainwright Sea Cadet Corps, which has been a part of my life ever since. By 1958, Irma had some twenty-seven cadets who paraded weekly at the school. As Petty Officer, I helped train these cadets with assistance from the Wainwright Officers.

During the summers of 1959 and 1960 I worked on a W.C. Wells Construction crew in Grande Prairie and Lethbridge. When I returned to farm on a permanent basis, I entered into a partnership with brother Sonny and my father. I continued my interest in the Cadet movement, serving as an officer with the Navy League, and then later with the Sea Cadet Corps, Cayuga. I have been the Commanding Officer of the corps for some fourteen years now, and it is with a great deal of pride that I say how much satisfaction and sense of achievement this organization has brought to me.

After a five year courtship, and a million miles of driving, I married Ruth Allen on July 1st, 1966. Ruth transferred from her teaching position at Edgerton, where she had taught grade six for two years, to a junior high position at the Irma school. Our first home was a twelve by fifty-two foot mobile home, which we lived in for six years, then traded in for a double wide trailer. Brother Sonny and I began breaking up a lot of land, and expanding our farming operation to include a bigger cattle herd, sheep and a larger line of machinery. When I was in the sheep business, I served a term as president of the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association. After farming together for seven years, Sonny and I established our own separate farms.

Ruth taught school for five years, until our son, Sheldon, was born on September 22nd, 1971, at which time she remained home for one year, and then returned to teaching on a half-time basis for two years.

In 1973 I was given the honor of escorting the European Sea Cadets across Canada for a period of two weeks.

Wanting to take a more active part in the community, Ruth joined the Order of the Royal Purple, where she has held various positions, and I became a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Progressive Conservative Association.

In 1974 we received the honor of a Farm Family Award when we were nominated by the Wainwright Chamber of Commerce in recognition of contribution to the Sea Cadet Corps, Cayuga.

Our second child, daughter, Shantelle, was born on September 27th, 1975, making our family complete.

With cattle prices appearing quite attractive, I went into the feed lot business where we fattened cattle for several years. We still maintain a beef herd, and dabble in the cattle business, but to a lesser degree.

Ruth began taking an active part in the Sunday School with the children, and became a member of the Official Board of Irma United Church where she has served as secretary for the past four years.

In 1981 I received another privilege through the Cadet Organization when I was asked to escort the Canadian Cadets to the Netherlands. I took an active part in the Progressive Conservative Association, serving a term as president, the highlight being the 1982 nomination meeting in Hardisty, which I chaired for some eighteen hundred people.

When Mom Archibald decided to take up residence in the Manor two years ago, Ruth and I began the construction of our dream home, which we just moved into the past year.

We are truly indebted to those people who had a part in the making of the "Irma Story", and especially those who had the inspiration to preserve our rich heritage in a hard cover book.

IVAN THOMAS ARCHIBALD

written by son John Archibald

My Dad was born on July 2, 1898 at Hanover, Grey County, Ont. He came west with his parents, John and Josephine Archibald at the turn of the century to Sunnyslope, in the Acme district in Alberta. Here they resided until 1919 when they moved to Irma. Here he met and married Pearl Ida Denison on the 23 Nov. 1921. As a young man he was quite active in sports. Playing baseball was his favourite. He also loved music and enjoyed playing the violin. He was a member of a band that played for many schoolhouse dances throughout the Irma and Jarrow districts. The other members were Evelyne (Herbert) Pyle and Jimmy Kennedy on the banjo. In approximately 1925-26 he moved his family to the S.W.-15-46-9-W4. Hunting was another of his favourite sports and his ability with the rifle put meat on the table many times in the hungry thirties through turkey and goose shoots. I remember one time I accompanied him on an inspection of his coyote snares. We found a coyote in a snare and so as not to mark the hide Dad delivered a hard blow to the end of the coyotes nose. Supposedly killing him. He then tied the carcass across

the back of the saddle, mounted up and we proceeded on our way home. We hadn't gone very far when I noticed Dad's horse switching his tail and twitching about. Then I saw Dad make a lurch in the saddle. The coyote sort of nipped him. Well, things were pretty lively for awhile, between the horse bucking and Dad trying to get off so he could really put a finish to the coyote. All ended well. Dad took part in community affairs, serving on the Ross school board as trustee for a number of years. In later years he was weed inspector for the Wainwright Municipality.

My Mother, Pearl Ida Denison was born on Jan. 25, 1903 at Colville, Washington and came from the States in 1904 to the Jarrow district in the Batts valley. She went to school at Batts and also took courses by correspondence. Mom was well-known for her ability to sew. There were eight of us children.

I am the oldest, then Roseline (deceased), Mighton, Stanlee (deceased), Avilvia, Lamona, Shirley and Ronald. We all attended the Ross school for our education up to the ninth grade, with the exception of Ronnie who received part of his education at the Irma school after Ross school closed.

My brother Mighton and I did the janitorial work at the school for three or four years. If I recall correctly the pay was ten cents per day. For a year or so we received an extra ten cents a day for carrying water. We carried the water from Mr. Fred Chalis's place (George Fischer place now) three-quarters of a mile. Sometimes if we needed extra water during the day we would go south one-half mile to Mr. Jim Kennedy's place. During the winter months we would take turns carrying the water while the other one went on ahead to light the fire. There was always an extra side benefit for the one carrying water as Mr. Chalis or his hired man seemed to always have the sour dough pancakes on. They were very welcome during the cold weather, matter of fact they were good any time. Later, Mr. E. Stockton bored a well on the school site which was much appreciated.

Before the war and during the early part of the war my brother Mighton and I worked for numerous farmers throughout the Irma district. We then both joined the R.C.A.F. After the war Mighton continued working in the district until he started in the oilfields. Later he

branched into the heavy equipment operation, which he still does at this time at Fort Nelson B.C. Mighton has two girls Leanne and Tammi. His wife Vicki passed away in 1983.

My Dad passed away in 1958 and my Mother in 1947. I bought a farm north and west of Irma after the war, west-half 20-46-9-W4 which we farmed until 1951 at which time I re-enlisted in the R.C.A.F., where I remained until 1972. We then bought a quarter west of Ma-Me-O Beach at Westeros. My wife Honor and I still reside here. We have four children Dale, Wendy, Ken and Randy.

Avilvia and her husband Jack Miller live at Peterborough, Ont. They have three children Christine, David and Jack.

Lamona and her husband Clarence Allen live at Creston, B.C. They have five children Betty, Kathryn, Jimmy, Audrey and Patricia.

Shirley and her husband Clifford Tessman live at Kinsella, Alta. They have six children Edna-May, Jeanette (deceased), Ivan, Gregory, Ronnie and Lynne.

Ronald is a carpenter and he and his wife Elaine reside at Canmore, Alta. They have four children Jason, Kerrie, Kyle, and Jan.



Charlie, Ivan seated Josie, Florence, John and Irene.

ARCHIBALD - J.H.

by Grace Archibald

John Henry Archibald was born in 1872 in Hanover County, of Grey, Ontario and was the eighth son in a family of fifteen children. He was married to Sarah Josephine Mighton who was born in Durham, Ontario.

The call of the west and their pioneer spirit induced them, with their two sons, Ivan and Charlie, to leave Ontario and after a journey of about ten days they arrived at Olds, Alberta and filed on a homestead SE-36-30-26 situated two and one-half miles south and one mile east of Sunnyslope. The neighbors were fine people and with their help it wasn't long before the house was built, a



Mighton, Ivan, Avilvia, Pearl, John in front, Lamona and Shirley.

garden planted and some of the land cleared.

For a couple of years the crops were very poor due to hail and early frost and on May 24, 1918 a two-day blizzard occurred. The cattle were out on the range and were driven into fences, creeks and sheds that caved in and many perished. Early in the year 1919 the Archibalds sold their land and loaded three boxcars with four horses, four cows, machinery and household effects and came to Irma. They bought a farm four miles north of Irma E 1/2-21-46-9. They brought three of their children with them Ivan, Florence and Irene. Charlie stayed in Sunnyslope to look after the rest of the livestock and put up hay. Then in March 1920 three more boxcars with twelve tons of baled hay, seed oats and the rest of their belongings finally ended up at Irma.

Florence and Irene attended Ross School. Charlie and Ivan helped their dad clear the land and build the house and barn. Times were hard in those days but there was always a cup of coffee or a meal at Archibald's for anyone traveling through or a neighbor going to town or coming home especially in the winter. The mode of transportation was pretty slow in those days.

John Archibald was well known for his snappy team with their decorated harness. He loved horses and was always ready to give any one of his neighbors a helping hand. In 1930 he served as councilor for the Battle River M.D. and was a trustee at the Ross School District thus becoming involved in community affairs.

In their later years they rented the farm and moved to a newer house across the road. Josie, as she was called, never got to experience the thrill of electricity or running water which we so readily take for granted today. Once a week folks would meet Josie on the road with her spirited black horse and fancy buggy going to Irma for groceries or visiting the neighbors. The community was saddened by her sudden passing in January 1951. She left behind many fond memories which her family and grandchildren will always cherish.

John lived alone for a number of years and then later made his home with his son Charlie. He was predeceased by Ivan in 1958. Great-grandpa John Archibald passed away in 1965 at the age of ninety years at the Wainwright Auxiliary Hospital. He too will be remembered as a pioneer link in the history of Irma, Alberta.

At time of writing, Florence lives with her daughter Kathleen in Edmonton and Irene and her husband Mr. Sid Pavely reside at Red Deer. Son Charlie, my husband, passed away in February 1977.

BERT ARMITAGE FAMILY

I was born at Borrisokane, County Tipperary, Ireland. In April, 1921 I came to Calgary with my parents, two brothers and two sisters.

My Dad had intended to ranch in the Calgary area. We were taken out by different real estate agents to see ranches, some of which we rode over on horseback. The foothills in April didn't look good to someone coming from Ireland, so after three weeks at Calgary Dad bought a new car and we came to Sedgewick, where he had a distant cousin, John Armitage, who owned the Armitage Hotel (which was later moved to Loughheed). We were



Bert and Mary Armitage wedding, 1933.

only a short time at Sedgewick until several parcels of land were purchased. In 1925 land was acquired at Irma, Section 15-45-9-W4th; E. 1/2 32-46-9-W4th and S. 1/2 4-48-9-W4th. We brought horses and equipment up from Sedgewick and summerfallowed the land, then moved back to Sedgewick. The next spring, 1926, I moved to Irma. In the winter of 1926-27 I lived on Charlie Young's farm and wintered his sheep and my cattle while he went to California for the winter.

In 1933 Mary Shaw and I were married at Wainwright. In 1925 Mary had come from England to Nova Scotia with her family and in 1926 they came to the Fabyan district. Three boys and two girls were born while we lived at Irma. Thomas William (Bill), Betty Anne, Mary Joyce, Joseph Herbert (Herb), Robert John. In 1942 Joyce died. Bill went to Glenholm school for a year. In 1943 we moved to Kinsella, section 17-47-10-W4th, while at Kinsella Donald, Doris, Ben and Maureen were born. Bill, Betty, Herb and John rode or drove horses to Batts school until 1950 when they commenced going to Kinsella school.

In 1969 Mary, Herb and I went to England and Ireland. We travelled both countries extensively and visited our relations in both countries. In 1977 Mary, Herb, Doris and I went over there again. Both times we had a car rented and Herb did the driving. He had worked in England for a year and had travelled both countries.

The 2nd of November, 1983 was our fiftieth wedding anniversary and our family put on a party for us at the Kinsella Hall, which was very much appreciated.

We are retired now and live on S.W. 18-47-10-W4th. Bill lives half a mile west of us on section 13-47-11-W4th.

He has three girls. John lives one and one-half miles east of us on section 8-47-10-W4th. He has two boys and two girls. Donald lives one and one-half miles east of us on section 17-47-10-W4th, he has one boy and three girls. Herb lives at Calgary. He is an engineer and sales manager and has two boys and two girls. Ben lives with us and farms. Clifton and Betty Holt live in the Batts district. They have three boys and one girl. Doris is a Research Assistant at High Risk Infants, University of Calgary Medical Centre. Maureen is at Falcon Enterprises, Wainwright.



Bill Armitage family. Standing: Bill, JoAnn. Seated: MaryLee, Hjordis, Patricia.

BILL ARMITAGE AND FAMILY

Thomas William Armitage was born in the Wainwright Hospital September 27th, 1934, the eldest son of Mary and Bert Armitage of Irma. His early years were spent on the farm south of Irma, attending school at Glenholm, and growing up with sisters Betty and Joyce and brothers John and Herb. In the spring of 1943 the family moved to the Kinsella area, living on the S.W. 17-47-10-W4th. Bill finished up the school year at Badger School and continued at Batts in the fall. Winter transportation of a horse (Blossom) and cutter provided the usual excitement of snow and runaways. Bill took the school bus to Kinsella in 1949 and completed part of his grade ten.

In the fall of 1950 he began a two year term at the Vermilion School of Agriculture, graduating in the spring of 1952. For the next ten years Bill farmed at home with his father.

On August 4th, 1962 Bill married Hjordis Andreson of Kinsella. After a honeymoon to the Seattle's World Fair they took up residence in a new home on the old Tom Wood's place S.E. 13-47-11-W4th. There Bill established a mixed farming operation, concentrating on a registered Black Angus herd under the farm name Angus Acres.

Hjordis, a teacher, taught at Albert School for a short time after their marriage before settling down to raise three daughters, JoAnne, MaryLee and Patricia. JoAnne is presently in her first year at N.A.I.T. taking Business Administration, MaryLee and Patricia respectively in

grade eleven and eight, at Viking school. The girls have all been members of the Viking 4H Beef Club and enjoyed the activities related to it.

When Patricia started school in 1974, Hjordis let her name stand for election as councillor in Division One of the County of Beaver. Being successful, she became the first woman to sit on the County of Beaver Council. She is presently in her third term.

Through the years Bill has been actively involved in community activities. He has been a member of the Kinsella Elks for over twenty years and has headed the United Church Board, the local Rural Electrification Association and the Kinsella Rural Telephone Board. Hjordis is a past member of the United Church Women, the Recreation Board and a present member of the Kinsella Order of the Royal Purple.



Donald, Iris, Jeffery, Lindsay, Sheryl, and Janelle Armitage.

DONALD ARMITAGE

I was born in the Hardisty Hospital, the sixth child to Bert and Mary Armitage. I received my education at the Kinsella School and also had to walk half a mile to catch the school bus. Have fond memories of being an Irma fan and attending many of the ball games.

On June 10, 1972 I married Iris Pauk of Lavoy, Alberta. She had received most of her education at Lavoy and Vegreville, Alberta. After high school she attended the school for certified nursing and received her C.N.A. training in 1970.

At present we have one son Jeffery age nine, and three daughters Lindsay age seven, Sheryl age three and Janelle born January 23, 1984. As a family we are still farming and are farming on the original farmstead section 17-47-10 of Bert Armitage.

JOSEPH HERBERT (HERB) ARMITAGE

- Born at Wainwright, Alberta in 1941.
- Third eldest of J.H. (Bert) and Mary Armitage.
- Lived south of Irma first two years and then moved to Kinsella in 1943.
- Attended first three years of school at Batts School - Mrs. M. Burr - Teacher, and travelled to school four miles with horse and cutter or cart.
- Grades four to ten at Kinsella School - walked one half mile and took school bus - Charlie Brown was the bus driver.
- Grades eleven and twelve attended Camrose Lutheran College, roommate George Loades.
- 1959 to 1963 attended University of Alberta in Edmonton and graduated as Civil Engineer.
- Worked for Defence Construction Limited as Site Engineer, May to October, 1963 at the Radar Base in Alsask, Saskatchewan.
- Left in December, 1963 with Mr. Jack Hassan of St. Paul, Alberta by train to New York and then by boat to Naples, Italy and hitchhiked south through Italy and then by boat to Greece. We travelled through Greece and then by boat to the Middle East - Lebanon, Syria and from there by boat to Egypt. From Cairo we hitchhiked across North Africa. It took four weeks to travel 3300 miles to Morocco. From there we took the boat to Gibraltar and hitchhiked through Spain to Madrid. There we bought a Volkswagen mini-bus for two hundred and twenty-five dollars which would take us 9000 miles through Europe and Scandinavia, before selling it for two hundred and fifty dollars in Calais, France, approximately four months later. We travelled through twenty-nine countries including all of Britain and Ireland.
- While in England I worked for John Laing and Sons as Site Engineer on the M6 Motorway near Birmingham.
- Returned to Montreal in October, 1965 and hitchhiked to Quebec City, Ottawa and Toronto and then drove to Kinsella.
- January, 1966 to 1969 worked as Sales Engineer with Con-Force Products Ltd. in Edmonton. In June of 1969 Con-Force transferred me to Winnipeg, Manitoba as Sales Manager there.
- Married in 1970 to Debbie Steringa at Kinsella and made our home on acreage in Birds Hill, Manitoba (near Winnipeg) until December, 1980, when we moved to DeWinton just south of Calgary still as Sales Manager for Con-Force, (Con-Force has now changed it's name to Genstar Structures).
- We have four children: Vicki 9, Paula 7, Joel 4 and Chad 1.

ARMITAGE, ROBERT JOHN

On December 29, 1942, I was born in Wainwright, Alberta, third son of Mary and Bert Armitage. It was a very cold winter with a lot of snow, so Mom brought me home to Irma on the train.

In the spring of 1943, we moved northeast of Kinsella to open rangeland owned by Granddad Armitage of Sedgewick. There was one building for sleeping and



Back Row: Kevin, John, Ardelle, Dianne. Front Row: Jason and Jody.

another for the kitchen. My bed was a dresser drawer, and my playpen a cardboard packing box, while Mom cooked for the hired men.

For grade one, I went with my brothers and sisters to Batts school by horseback or cutter in the winter. Many times the cutter would tip, causing lunch pails and books to go flying. I remember the day Gordy Bridgeman's horse died in the school barn.

The remainder of my education I received at the Kinsella school. We had to walk to the half mile corner to catch the bus. In high school, we were bussed to Viking school for shop. The enjoyment of the day was running across to the creamery for ice cream to eat on the way home.

Sports have always been a part of my life. High school basketball and softball days will always be remembered. I also played softball for Batts and the Albert Royals. In 1966-67, I played hockey for the Irma Aces.

November 11, 1967, Ardele Felzien of Galahad and I were married. We have four children: Diane Faye, born August 3, 1968; Kevin John, born February 13, 1970; Jason William, born March 5, 1974; Jody Ardele, born March 3, 1979. When Diane started school in the fall of 1974, the Kinsella school was closed and all students were bussed to Viking. The same year, Kevin was a member of the first Kindergarten class in the Viking school with Mrs. Marie Rushton as teacher. Diane is presently in grade ten, Kevin in grade nine, and Jason in grade four. Jody is looking forward to starting Kindergarten in the fall of 1984.

I chose farming as my career. I'm a part of the third generation to farm in this area under the Armitage name. Hopefully the opportunity will be available for our children.

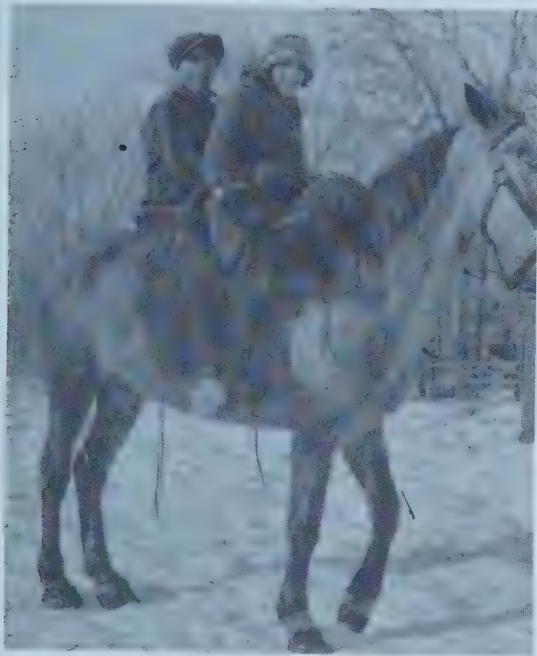
BRUCE ARMSTRONG

Bruce Armstrong homesteaded N.E. 18-46-8 in 1907. After proving up on his land he moved to town and built and operated the first drug store in Irma in 1909. He sold his homestead to the Soldier Settlement Board. Later the

Armstrong drug store was remodelled and became Shaw's Hotel. We do not know what year Bruce Armstrong left or where he went.

J.H.S. ARMSTRONG

J.H.S. Armstrong homesteaded on the N.W. 18-46-8 in 1907. He proved up this land and then sold it to Walter Renwick and moved to town. He was in charge of the first Post Office in Irma in 1909 and was also a Justice of the Peace until he passed away. Following his death Mrs. Armstrong took over the Post Office until 1923. She has since passed away.



George and Margaret Armstrong.

THE JOHN J. ARMSTRONG FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. John (Jack) Armstrong and their two small sons, James and George, were one of the first families to file on a homestead in the Lewisville area. They came from the Dresden and Tillsonberg areas in S.W. Ontario. Jack filed on his homestead, the S.W. 20-44-8, June 10, 1913. Part of this land lay between the Battle River and the Buffalo Park Reserve.

Mrs. Armstrong's grandparents and parents were United Empire Loyalists. They emigrated from the U.S.A. to the Dresden area. Mrs. Armstrong, Anne Shepherd, was born at Dresden. She was a teacher before coming West. Her favorite pastime was part-time writing which she enjoyed very much.

Jack took an interest in the affairs of the community. He served as councillor for that area when it was part of the Battle River Municipality. He was the first Sec.-Treas. for the Lewisville School. He held these positions for several years.

Their sons, George and James, had to cross the river to

get to school. As there was no bridge across the river they had to use a row boat. Before the bridge was built, about 1920, a boat was a necessary piece of equipment for the families by the river.

This family were all helpful when music was needed for the community gatherings, or work needed for any public project.

After George left school he was a part time rider in the Buffalo Park. He also was interested in mechanics. He worked for a time at a garage in Wainwright, learning about cars. James was the farmer.

In 1928 George married Margaret Miles, the teacher at Lewisville. They farmed for three years across the river from the school. George thought he could do better if he became a full time rider in the Buffalo Park. They and their two little daughters, Kathleen and Margaret, moved to Wainwright in the winter of 1930 and 1931. George began riding regularly and rode for more than nine years in the Park. The Fall Round-ups of the buffalo were always exciting and many an interesting tale was told about these activities.

When the Federal Government closed the Buffalo Park in June of 1940 George promptly enlisted in the Army. Part of his training was at an army technical school at St. John N.B.

Margaret and the girls moved to Vancouver when George went Overseas. She took a Business Course and worked in the Bank of Montreal and in a Real Estate Office. When George returned from Overseas they moved to Wellington, Vancouver Island. His army course served him well as he worked as a mechanic for a logging company on the Island until 1957. The next nine years he worked in Nanaimo as mechanic for General Motors. He passed away suddenly in March 1966 from a heart attack.

The girls were married and living in the Vancouver and Burnaby area. Margaret, because of failing health, moved back to Vancouver to be nearer. She passed away in February 1968.

Kathleen married a Vancouver lad, Gordon Zimmerman. They have two sons. Their home is in North Burnaby. At present Kathleen is a Judge of the Citizenship Court in B.C.

Margaret (jr.) married Bill Beattie, a forester. They have three daughters. They lived in S. Burnaby until about three years ago when Bill retired. They now live at a lake near Princeton B.C. They enjoy living here - out of the city.

Jack Armstrong passed away in 1929. Mrs. Armstrong and Jim remained on the farm. In 1941 Mrs. Armstrong moved to Vancouver. Jim remained on the farm until the Wainwright Military Camp expanded and took in most of the Lewisville district. He finally went to Hinton, Alberta, where he obtained work cutting ties for the C.N.R. Jim passed away in 1980.

Mrs. Anne Armstrong passed away in Vancouver in 1969.

No matter what kind of diet you are on you are usually allowed to eat as much as you want of anything you don't like.

GROVER ARNOLD

by Edna (Arnold) Forsyth

Grover Arnold was born in Windside, Nebraska on November 24th, 1884. He came to Alberta from Oklahoma in 1907. He spent the first winter working in a coal mine in Edmonton. The following spring he took up a homestead north of Irma, in what became known as the Avonglen district. It took him ten days to travel from Edmonton to Irma by oxen. He farmed with oxen and later with horses. One day one of his neighbors asked him how long did it take to plow a mile. With his sense of humour he said, it took one day to go up and another day to return. He lived in a very humble two roomed tar paper shack.

Margery McNaughton came west from Lancaster, Ontario, on May 10th, 1910 to keep house for her brother John McNaughton. She had many hardships while being with him.



Grover and Margery Arnold with Lillian in 1916.

On October 28th, 1914 she was united in marriage to Grover Arnold. They had four daughters and one son. During those years they worked very hard and had their share of sorrow, losing two children. They lived in the Avonglen district until 1932 when Grover passed away. Margery moved to the village of Irma and remained there until the family obtained their education. In 1946 she moved to Edmonton to be near her family. She passed away in Edmonton in 1950. Grover and Margery are laid to rest in the Irma Cemetery. The survivors of the family are Ethel, Stella and Edna.

Ethel married Arthur Larson of Irma. They have two daughters, Laura and Claire.

Laura graduated from the University of Manitoba in Education. She married Kenneth Kelsch of Winnipeg,

Manitoba, who is also a graduate from the University of Manitoba, in Education. They have one son Christopher.

Claire graduated as a Lab Technician from the Winnipeg General Hospital. She married Ronald Waugh, who is a graduate from the University of Manitoba, in Commerce.

Stella married Robert Simmermon from Irma. They have four children. Beverly is a graduate in Nursing from the Calgary General Hospital. She is head nurse in the operating room of Rossland, B.C. General Hospital.

Deborah graduated from the University of Alberta and teaches in Calgary.

Robert has returned from two years in the mission field, and is starting out in Public Relations.

David is on his first year out in the mission field.

Edna married Harold Forsyth from Oshawa, Ontario and they have two sons. Allen is parts manager for Pioneer Machinery. Brian is a Forest Ranger for the Provincial Government.

In the early years Grover and Margery worked hard on the farm. Grain was hauled twelve miles to town by four horse teams and wagons or sleighs. One trip was made each day. Mrs. Arnold milked cows and made butter to sell at the local store.

After taking up residence in Irma, Mrs. Arnold was busily engaged in W.M.S., Ladies Aid, Red Cross, W.I., Eastern Star, and school board. She was an elder of the United Church, a Sunday School teacher and a choir member.

The sod they turned and cultivated is now farmed by the Ford brothers.

GROVER ARNOLD

by Bill Patterson

Grover Arnold is always remembered as one of many good neighbors of the early years. An American, Grover homesteaded the S.W. 1/4 of 4-47-8-W4th. He became one of the first big farmers and by the late 1920's he was farming the rest of Section 4, the N. 1/2 of 8-47-8-W4th and E. 1/2 5-47-8-W4th and also E. 1/2 32-46-8-W4th, the W. 1/2 of 33-46-8-W4th.; the W. 1/2 of 28-46-8-W4th and the S.W. 1/4 29-46-8-W4th.

He broke his homestead with a team of cayuses, a team of oxen, and one mule, all hooked to a two furrow plow. By the time I remember him he had a spring work force of at least six 6 horse teams and several spare horses as replacements. His usual quota was about fifty-five work horses.

Grover had his interesting moments as did all the early settlers. The N.E. 1/4 of 18-46-8-W4th was homesteaded by a fellow by the name of John Ferry. He lived in a semi-dugout, a hole about four feet deep with low frame walls above ground and a pitch roof. Access was a door in the gable end, and a ladder down to the floor. One evening Grover, having run out of formaldehyde used to treat seed grain, and thinking to borrow some from John, had ridden down just at dark. Not having been in the house before, he knocked on the door and when John, who was sitting in the dark, said "Come in"; Grover opened the door and stepped in. As he picked himself up and righted the table, John apologized for not warning him of the

ladder he should have used.

Another time Grover took a team and wagon and several barrels to get some soft water for washing. Out on Section 5 was a large clear slough so he drove in and filled the barrels. Then as it was a hot day, he thought of a



Arnold girls on Old Buck.

swim. Taking off his clothes in the wagon he stepped over the side. His splashing in the water frightened the team and they promptly left with the wagon and his clothes. Grover had to walk home in the nude to get a fresh set of clothes before he could go looking for his team and wagon.

Grover had the name of being a tough man to work for, so each summer the turnover of teamsters was to say the least large. In 1923 he bought a Model T. Ford so the trip to town for men was not an all day event. Needless to say many of the men were not as capable teamsters as they should be, so runaways were a way of life. It was not unusual to see Grover come over the hill on his grey saddled horse, looking for runaways and their harnesses.

He raised pigs as he raised cattle, running them on the range all summer. In the spring every strawstack for miles around was home to a litter or two of pigs. We found an orphan once, so small we kept it under an apple box for a week and fed it from a saucer of milk. Grover just laughed when we told him, said keep it and wished us luck. It grew into a big friendly barnyard pet and we got twelve dollars for it that fall.

George Wilson came to work for Grover in 1923. Born in Gananoque, Ontario about 1900, George came west to Pincher Creek in 1918. Then in 1921 or thereabouts, he helped trail a herd of horses north from Pincher Creek to the hills north of Jarrow for the Fredicks of the old Spoal Ranch. From there he drifted down to Arnolds to work, and later for McLean and Patterson.

One Sunday he rode down to our place and arrived just as George Hipperson (Hippy), drove in with his old one-eyed mare hitched to a buggy. The talk centered on the mare and Hippy remarked that she sure could buck. Next thing she was unhooked from the buggy, unharnessed and George saddled her up. He swung up in the saddle, the old mare just stood there with a sour look in her eye. George said "this old girl won't buck" and Hippy answered "dig in your spurs George". George did and the old mare just blew up, unloading George in nothing flat. George then decided he could ride her with a surcingle so this was exchanged for the saddle. Once again he was mounted and dug in his spurs. Again the old girl came to

life and George was still on top when she entered the willow bush at the end of the lane. George stuck on, hoping she would soon buck out the other side, but finally he had to let go and landed in a big clump of willows. He was torn and bleeding, his face all scratched up as he walked out. Mrs. Arnold, when she saw him, couldn't understand why a person would go through all that just to prove he could ride a certain horse.

One spring day Marney and I met Grover and he said "When school is out come over and get a pony I bought for my kids as they can't ride it, and I'd like you to ride it for me this summer." As soon as July came we went out and ran the pony in off the range along with a bunch of Grover's horses. Roping the pony, we turned the rest out. It was a pretty bay and white pinto, half Shetland, so it was fairly small, well halter broken but full of life. We put a bridle on, led it out in the barnyard and I got on bareback. It promptly ducked its head and bucked me off. I went up the full length of the reins before I turned over and came down. We then put on the stock saddle, took it out in the field where the ground wasn't so hard, and Marney got on. She did real well, was still in the saddle, when it ended up on top of the pony's head, the cinch behind its knees, and everything including Marney in a big heap on the ground. The saddle was too large for the pony and it had just bucked everything off. We shortened the cinch and rode it all that summer, but only saddled. Whenever we tried to ride it bareback it always waited its chance and bucked us off. Unknown to Grover it seems the hired men had taken turns trying to ride it bareback out to water, so it had become very proficient at bucking them off. At Grover's auction sale he raffled the pony off, everyone coming in the gate got a ticket. The last time I saw the pony Sid Inkin owned her and she must have been well over twenty years old. Time had slowed her down some and his kids were riding her then.

Around the bunkhouse on a Sunday or a rainy day some tall stories were often told. I remember one fellow the men nicknamed "Whispering Smith". All one Sunday was spent with him telling them how he had cured horses of every ailment known to Veterinary Science and of as many more known only to himself. One young fellow, working for Grover, bragged one day how he had harrowed over forty acres in one day with four horses hitched to twelve feet of harrows. Grover overheard him



Back Row: Harry Carter, ?, Bill Lawson, Grover Arnold, person unknown.



Arnold Girls - Stella, Adelaide Elliott, Edna and Ethel.

and replied that if another man's team could do it, his could also. The next day the fellow did repeat his fete, walking behind the harrows as well. As he and the team recovered in the days following, he had lots of time to regret his brag.

One morning George Wilson rode out to run in the work teams. In running them his horse stepped in a hole and rolled over, landing across George's hips, and he was unable to get up. When the saddle horse returned home Grover jumped in the Model T. and came to look for George. Finding him, he laid him in the back seat and headed down the old prairie trail to town and the doctor. George recovered but always said the worst part of all was that trip to town.

One of Grover's men whom I only recall as Shorty, was home alone one wet summer night when he was wakened about 2:00 a.m. by someone pounding on the door. It seems this fellow was stuck in a mud hole some distance down the road, and wanted to be pulled out. Grudgingly Shorty got up, harnessed a team and went back to where the car was mired. It was a big McLaughlin Buick, sunk to the axels. Hooking a chain on the front Shorty pulled it out. The fellow asked "How much" and Shorty said "\$5.00". The fellow argued, then refused to pay. Shorty, a quiet man and never known to think fast before did so now. Hooking up the chain he pulled the car back in the mud and prepared to leave for home. The driver broke down and offered the \$5.00. Not until he had the money in his hand would Shorty pull the car out again.



Grover Arnold crew hauling grain to town. George Wilson, Gus Christenson, Bob Arnold, Grover Arnold.

M.D. (DICK) ASKIN AND FAMILY

by W. Roy Askin

In the spring of 1882 my father M.D. (Dick) Askin and brothers James and John came from Owen Sound, Ontario to Winnipeg, Manitoba and from there west with a group of men to the North West Territories travelling by Red River carts and wagons drawn by oxen and horses as far as Battleford. The expedition travelled south of Moose Mountain which was as far as my father and uncles planned to go. My Uncle James got discouraged as they so often got stuck in mud sloughs and creeks and he went back to Manitoba and homesteaded near the present town of Portage la Prairie. Dad and Uncle John continued to the Moose Mountain area and took up homesteads. In the summer of 1882 Dad's mother, two brothers, a sister, her husband and their family came from Ontario to the same area and all took up homesteads. After homesteading there Father left to work at other jobs in both Canada and the United States once working for J.D. Rockefeller and also on the building of the C.P.R. Transcontinental Railway west of Winnipeg. He then obtained a farm near Brandon where his brother, Samuel, was also farming somewhat closer to Brandon.

In 1896 my father went back to visit a brother on the old home farm near Allenford, Ontario. While there he married my mother, Lavina Atkinson, a neighbor's daughter. My parents then lived on the farm near Brandon until the fall of 1897 when they sold that land and moved to a farm about thirty-five miles southwest of Moosomin and the closest post office and doctor. When the railroad came into the district from Winnipeg about 1900 the town of Arcola grew up on the quarter northwest of my father's land. About 1903 a line from Regina joined the other line at Arcola.



Fortieth Anniversary of Dick and Lavina Askin, July 1936 at their farm home. Standing: Cecil, Robert, Roy, Tom, Ina, Dick and Lavina.

Our first home here was built of logs from the nearby Moose Mountains with a roof of poles and sod. In this house my brother, Cecil, and sister, Ina, were born while my youngest brother, Tom, was born in a frame house built the summer of 1904.

After living and farming in South Saskatchewan from 1897 to the spring of 1913 my dad and I went to Fort William, Ontario and worked at different carpenter and other jobs. When school up to grade eight closed at Arcola for the summer holidays, my mother, brothers and sister, Ina, joined us at Fort William.

When World War I broke out in 1914 my father joined the 45th South Saskatchewan Battalion in the spring of 1915, trained at Camp Sewel, now Camp Shilo, Winnipeg, went overseas to England for more training and went to France in 1916. He was so badly gassed that when soldiers came to pick up the injured men he heard them say there was no use picking him up as he was too far gone. Later when coming back for more injured men they noticed some sign of life in him and picked him up. After recuperating for several months in England, he got passage back to Canada in the late summer of 1917. His health gradually improved so that by the spring of 1918 he and the other members of the family thought they would like to try farming again and chose to come to Alberta. On the train from Moose Jaw, where I joined my father and brother Bob, to Edmonton were men from several areas of Alberta and one from Sedgewick spoke very favorably of that area so the Askins first set foot on Alberta soil at one o'clock A.M. at Sedgewick. A real estate man there showed us land listed there. As we had very little money the price seemed too high so he showed us listings near Irma. He brought us in a Maxwell touring car, top down, across country, around sloughs and bush to the first railroad crossing east of Jarrow, which at that time was as large as Irma. Following a country road east and opening two gates on the farm where Ernest and Jean Rae live we arrived in Irma for a late dinner in the old restaurant operated by the Jim Ponds. One man in the restaurant was Mr. Tom Coulthman who said that there was land for sale in his home district of Orbindale that he was surprised hadn't been sold. After lunch we travelled south on the Hardisty trail and looked at several farms, one of which belonged to Bob Mitchel who talked of selling but Mrs. Mitchel didn't wish to. Another belonged to Mr. Homer Eaton. With all the needed information we returned to Sedgewick by way of Hardisty. Later Dad and brother Bob, after looking over a forty mile area near Westlock, decided to buy Homer Eaton's land, of which the quarter with buildings had been homesteaded by a Mr. Huffman, a cousin of Ed Huffman. They bought four horses and machinery needed to farm that summer. After school closed at Fort William for the summer, my mother, two brothers and Ina came to Irma. That year a late July frost damaged the Irma crops and the only farmer who threshed any grain was Mr. Charles Wilbraham.

Still interested in homesteading Dad went to Grande Prairie in the fall of 1918 and filed on homesteads for himself, Bob, Cecil and me which were situated a short distance east of where the Beaver Lodge Experimental Farm is now located. These applications were later



Marjorie and Roy Askin in July 1926 before they were married.

cancelled. While in that area he decided to see what the land was like farther west and went as far as Prince George before returning home by train. Before reaching Jarrow he was informed that Irma was quarantined on account of the flu epidemic and no passengers were allowed off there so he walked or hitch-hiked from Jarrow.

In the summer of 1918 my brother, Bob, returned to Fort William where he got work with a pulp and paper company and was able to go to university many winters. He graduated from Kingston University with a Bachelor of Science and Mechanical Engineering Degree and continued to work for the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company as plant superintendent at Fort William and later was promoted to vice-president in charge of production with head office in Toronto. As a member of a delegation he was sent to the Edson and Grande Prairie area to consider building mills in that area and shortly after that the company built a pulp mill at Hinton. While on this delegation my son Bill and I visited with him at my brother Tom's home in Edmonton. He passed away suddenly in July of 1961 from a severe stroke and is survived by his wife and one son and one daughter.

My sister, Ina, after obtaining a permit and diploma taught school at Lewisville, Sunny Brae and Willowview. In December 1922 she and Richard Bland were married at the Askin farm home. After their honeymoon they went to live in St. Louis, Missouri as Richard was on the editorial staff of the St. Louis Post Dispatch daily newspaper. A few years later he passed away leaving Ina to raise two sons and one daughter which meant quite a struggle for which she deserves a lot of credit. Later she with her family moved near San Francisco where our brother Cecil was living. She visited her home in Irma a number of times before passing away in 1977.

Cecil, after finishing high school, eventually went to California where he worked mostly as a mechanic and built his own light airplane. He joined the U.S. Merchant Marines when war broke out with Japan, took a first aid course and was in Hawaii when the armistice was signed. He was killed when a bomb exploded on a ship he was guarding. He was buried in the same cemetery as Slim

(Warren) Peterson, a former pioneer of the Irma area.

My younger brother, Tom, after graduating from high school at Irma, took four terms in agriculture at the University of Alberta during which time he continued to help on the home farm and also assist farm neighbors. From 1927 until the fall of 1942, with our parents, he operated the home farm. In 1936 he and Edith Pearson, a music teacher in Irma, were married and they continued to live on the farm until Tom enlisted in the Canadian Army during the Second World War. He and Edith and their first two sons moved to Edmonton and then to Saskatoon where their two younger sons were born.

After the war ended Tom took his fifth term in agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan and was employed as land assessor in Saskatchewan and later in seed plants in Calgary and Edmonton. He eventually had the position of land assessor for the Alberta Provincial Government in the northern part of the province, a position he held until his retirement. He and his wife now live in retirement at Mission, B.C.

Our parents retired from the farm and lived in Irma where our father passed away in 1948 and our mother in 1949. The Hugh Tomlinsons now own the home farm and have lived there for quite a number of years.

Tom Askin passed away in January, 1985.



Mr. M.D. Askin, Roy and Bill in 1935.

WILLIAM ROY ASKIN

by W. Roy Askin

In the spring of 1897 I was born at Brandon, Manitoba where my parents were farming. In the fall of that year my parents sold their land and moved to the Moose Mountain area where they farmed at what later became Arcola, Saskatchewan until the spring of 1913. That spring my dad and I went to Fort William and worked at carpenter work and different jobs.

Home is where you can say whatever you please because nobody is listening anyway.

After my father joined the army I continued working at various jobs and by the spring of 1918 was working on a farm in Saskatchewan when the family decided to come to Alberta so I joined them at Moose Jaw. After looking at land in the Irma district without buying I went back to Arcola for summer work on a 640 acre farm but had agreed to work with the family if they bought land or homesteaded.

Early in July of 1918 I was notified to report to Regina for military training on July 12th. After a month there I got a two month harvest leave and when the harvest was finished I had time to visit the family at Irma. When I returned to Regina the commanding officer told me to go back home and wait until they called me which they never did.

After Christmas in 1918 Cecil and I went to an employment office in Edmonton to find work. From our hotel room near the C.N.R. station we could clearly see the west side of the city. We accepted jobs on the railroad west of Hazelton, B.C. where some of the sharpest curves were being taken out. When the job was half completed Cecil left for Prince Rupert to work on a passenger and freight boat travelling to Yukon, Alaska and Vancouver. When my job was finished I chose a pass to Prince Rupert rather than back to Edmonton. At Prince Rupert I got a job on a tug boat hauling spruce logs from the Queen Charlotte Islands. At first I was a cook's helper at twenty-five dollars a month and board, then a fireman's helper at seventy-five dollars a month and then a fireman's job as one of the firemen left. I had previous experience with steam boilers and had obtained a permanent steam engineer certificate in October of 1917. Later at Prince Rupert Cecil joined our crew to be a helper to the captain of the tugboat the S.S. Massett of Vancouver. On one trip we encountered a bad storm on the open sea and thought the boat would sink. We lost most of the raft of logs we were towing. On another trip we experienced the unusual tide formation in the inside passage between the islands and the mainland.

Cecil and I came back to Irma in time to help put in the 1919 crop and then with brother Bob went to Grande Prairie to look over the homesteading situation there. We decided to cancel our homesteading applications and Cecil and I stayed and found work. I worked at a lumber mill at Sexsmith and then on a firefighting crew farther east at Sturgen Lake. A late snowstorm, June 3rd, finished the firefighting job so I returned to Irma.

Due to a very dry summer the wheat crop only yielded twelve and one-half bushels and the oats five bushels per acre so I found winter work at a logging camp and sawmill at Calahoo west of Edmonton, owned by the Capital City Box Company of Edmonton. That winter there was a lot of snow.

I helped put in the crop in the spring of 1920 and then broke forty acres of land with a four horse team and a walking plow on a quarter section about three-quarters of a mile south of home. One day while working there I observed a threatening black cloud in the west so turned the horses into the pasture and started walking home but was overtaken half-way by the rain that turned into a three hour cloudburst. It filled the Gratton Coulee from one bank to the other, also covered the roads on each side

and drowned many gophers in the fields.

During the summer of 1920 we purchased the north-west quarter 13-45-9 that had been homesteaded by a Mr. Lyons. That fall there was a really good crop. A new public school was being built that fall and I hauled gravel for the contractor, Mr. Bill Henderson, and Dad helped with the carpenter work so there was no winter working away from home. The 1921 crop was good too.

In the winter of 1921-1922 I worked at a tie camp on the McLeod River south of Obed for the McPherson and Quigley Company with offices in Edmonton. I helped the teamsters load the railroad ties to be hauled to the McLeod River to be eventually loaded on railroad cars for shipment.

In December of 1922 we purchased the S.W. quarter of 13-45-9 that had been homesteaded by William Reed. In 1923 the crops were really good so we bought our own threshing machine, a G.I. Cross motor 15-27 tractor and a 26"-46" separator, and threshed our own crops and that of some of our neighbors. Before that Fred Hill had threshed our crop and also Jack and Bruce Henderson had threshed for us with a large steam outfit. After the winter of 1922 and 1923 we had more field work to do and more cattle and horses so I stayed home to help rather than working out. In winter we used to cut and split a year's supply of green poplar wood to be dry for the coming year. Also at that time we farmers hauled some of the wheat and loaded it into cars over the loading platform during winter and early spring.

In June of 1926 Marjorie Wolfe came to Irma to visit with her cousin, Art Blakley, and family during her holidays. She was secretary for the manager of the Toronto daily newspaper, the Mail and Empire now the Globe and Mail. Before she left to go to Vancouver prior to returning to Toronto we decided that we would be married. We were married in Toronto on January 12, 1927. Someone jokingly said that a wolf changed into a skin (Wolfe to Askin). We went on a trip to Windsor and Detroit, visited with a few friends and then returned to Toronto. Before returning to Irma we also visited relatives and friends at Allenford and Port Elgin, Ontario. After a couple of days stop-over in Winnipeg, we arrived in Irma on March 4, 1927, the day of my parents' 32nd wedding anniversary. In March 1927 Marjorie and I started living on the N.E. 31-45-9 that we rented from Mr. Newberry. When his son George decided to farm the next year we continued to live in part of the house as George didn't need it all. As the crops in 1927 were good we were able in the spring of 1928 to purchase most of the farm I am now living on. We arranged with Mr. Simmons to build our house and the day before Christmas 1928 we were able to move into our new home. Dry summers and poorer crops and low prices followed.

In our home the morning of February 14, 1929 Marjorie and I were presented with our son, William Alfred. When he was seven years old he began school three miles away at Sunny Brae, a one room country school which he attended until the area was formed into a large school division and the children were bussed to Irma.

During his growing up years son Bill was interested in trapping coyotes, muskrats, weasels, an interest which he

never lost. After finishing school he started farming on the N.W. 13-46-8 and rented other land and at one time had quite a large number of hogs. In the summer of 1953 he married Winnifred Thurston and they had a family of three children. In the fall of 1970 the family moved to Plamonden and in 1972 Bill acquired a large trap line area close to Steen River and has been able to enlarge it since then. They also have some farm land close to Fort Vermilion and High Level and are building a cottage on one of the quarters.

Marjorie passed away in January of 1966 and I have been carrying on alone since then. Occasionally someone has remarked to me that he would not like to do it all over again but I would be glad of the opportunity provided I could have the same relatives, friends and neighbors.

This is written as I remember it by W. Roy Askin, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dorman Askin.

Since writing this Roy Askin passed away June 1984 at the age of 87 years and was laid to rest in the family plot in the Irma Cemetery.



Genon and Ross Astley, Mae Knudson, Olivia Theroux in 1953.

ROSCOE ASTLEY FAMILY

by Genon Astley

Roscoe (Ross) Astley was born in Minburn on September 20th, 1916, the eldest of the five sons of Hiram and Dell Astley. He started to school at Willow View, then as the family moved into the Minburn area, finished his schooling there. Ross worked for different farmers before buying land, the S.E. 15-48-10-W4th, in 1940 for four hundred and eighty dollars.

I, Genon Mae Theroux, was born in Irma, Alberta, on October 17th, 1922, the middle daughter of George and Olivia Theroux. My childhood was spent in Batts Valley. Teachers included my mother for grade one, Miss Bowen - grades two and three and Miss Nan Kennedy - grades four to nine. I went to Irma High for grade ten, Kinsella for grade eleven, finishing my grade twelve and graduating from the Camrose Lutheran College. After attending Normal School in Edmonton I taught school at Willow View, Rodino, Coal Springs and Jarrow.

Ross and I were married on July 24th, 1948 and we

spent nearly twenty-five happy years on the farm. Gwyneth Irene came to make our home complete on November 5th, 1957.

Ross loved all animals, but especially horses. Well I remember watching on a winter afternoon, when he'd hook up a colt to break, along with faithful old May, then go out into the field where they'd go around and around. Soon the colt seem to know what was expected of him.

More land was purchased till we had five quarters, which meant more breaking. Following this there was always brush to burn, as well as roots and rocks to pick by hand. I didn't appreciate those root piles in the middle of a field when harvest time came and I drove the tractor while Ross was on the binder.

Transportation was always a problem because we had two miles of dirt road north to meet up with the main road to Minburn. In the other directions we had no less than eight gates in that seven mile journey. Many the time Ross had to walk home and get the team to pull our truck through a mud hole. It wasn't until the Jarrow-Minburn road went by our place in 1960, that we were sure of getting home the way we left.

I went back to teaching in 1963 at the Albert Centralized School for a four month spring term, but this has stretched to the present time. In 1969 when Albert was closed I was transferred to the Irma School where I am still employed. Ross passed away on May 10th, 1973 and Gwyneth and I moved into Irma that fall.

Gwyneth loved animals too, our dogs, her pony, Queenie, Ross's old saddle horse, Jim, and of course the numerous cats. Another delight was driving the tractor while Ross fed the cattle. Gwyneth graduated from Irma High School in 1975, University of Alberta in Edmonton in 1979, with a B.Ed degree. She taught school in Holden, Ryley and Camrose as a band teacher. On July 25th, 1981 she married Harold Gulbraa and they live in Irma. Harold farms south of town and Gwyneth teaches at the Wainwright High School.



On July 25, 1981, Gwyneth and Harold Gulbraa's wedding day with her mother Genon Astley.

TOMMY AND JOE AVERILL

Tommy and Joe Averill came to the Irma area around 1933 and settled N.E. 23-46-9 now owned by Garry Archibald. They came from Ireland and both were bachelors.

Tommy started a flute band consisting of Joe Averill on the drums and Albert Larson, George, Charlie and John Archibald, Allen Anderson, J. Thomson, Ron Thurston, Sam Stead, Jack McFadden, John Watson and Tommy Averill on flutes. This band played in Wainwright in 1939 for the King and Queen.

Joe and Tommy were in the services during World War Two. While overseas Joe married. After returning they purchased V.L.A. land near Mannville and lived there until they retired into Mannville.

Joe had a well-trained dog which he showed on the Lloydminster T.V. Station. He spent several winters working in the bush at Drayton Valley.

Joe and Tommy have passed away and are buried in Mannville cemetery.



Frank Bacon and family: Taken April 1967, the day they left to go back to Ontario. Joyce Bacon, Frank Bacon, Joan, Judy holding Keith, Nola Pierce, Allen, Donna and Margaret.

FRANK AND JOYCE BACON FAMILY

by Betty Pierce

Frank and Joyce came west from Ontario in 1950 when Judy was just a baby. Frank had uncles and aunts and cousins already living in this vicinity. Frank worked for different farmers around the district. During the time they spent here they had six more children.

In 1966 their family and friends were saddened by the death of their year and a half old daughter, Ronda, of pneumonia. They also had the misfortune of losing their home by fire, they were living on the Pete Larson place at the time. Then they bought Art Larson's house which they moved over to the Pete Larson place.

Although many things could never be replaced, the neighbors rallied around and gave them a shower of many gifts and money to get their household set up and going again. During this time of getting their home moved and fixed up, the family moved in with the Pierce family. With five of ours and five of theirs at the time, it

was just like school had been let out. Judy babysat for us a lot, in fact she spent the best part of three years with us. We missed her very much when Frank and Joyce decided to move back to Kinmount, Ontario, in April of 1967, due to the illness of Frank's father.

Since they moved back home, Joyce has been back to visit us once as well as two of the boys and one of the girls.

Although there were many hard times and sad ones too, we had many good times together.



Tom and Sarah Bacon twenty-fifth anniversary, July 12th, 1966.

TOM AND SARAH (FITZPATRICK) BACON

Tom grew up in the Sunny Brae District and received his education there. He is the third son of Mr. and Mrs. William Bacon who farmed for many years in the Sunny Brae District.

The Fitzpatrick family moved from the Rabbit Hill District - near Edmonton - to take up a farm eight miles east of Irma in 1928. Later in the year this area became the Crescent Hill School District. Here I attended school with my younger sisters and brothers.

We were married in Vermilion July 12, 1941 at the United Church manse. Tom's mother and father, as well as Mr. Halvorsen, a friend, were in attendance at the ceremony.

We helped Tom's folks with the farming during the War Years as three of his brothers were in the Air Force. Tom was also in the Reserve Army.

In the spring of 1945 we moved to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Voros and worked for them until the spring of 1947. By this time we had bought a quarter of land and rented more and started farming just south of the Voros place..

We started farming with horses but later bought a tractor and some bigger equipment. We didn't have electricity or a phone. Most of our entertainment was the

radio. We went to town mostly on Saturday night because at that time the stores remained open on Saturday evening until nearly midnight. It was a time for shopping and meeting friends.

Having farmed here for several years we decided to move and bought land north of Fabyan, known then as the Barrett farm. We enjoyed living in a larger community. As well as farming Tom drove a school bus, taking the high school students from our area to Wainwright.

When Passchendale School closed Tom drove a larger bus taking all of the children to Wainwright.

After a few poor crop years we moved to Wainwright. Tom still drove the school bus and worked part time at Hughie's Auto Electric. When he started working full time at Hughie's Auto Electric he had to give up the bus driving. Tom enjoyed mechanic work so took a mechanic's course at Tech. in Calgary.

In 1964 he started his own shop in Irma. He worked here for some time then closed his shop and worked for Keith Coffin. He again drove school bus.

We adopted our son, Ivan, in September 1952. He works for Northwestern Utilities at Irma. He has been goalkeeper for the Irma Aces Hockey team for a number of years.

We adopted our daughter, Vera, in July 1958. Vera works in Vegreville. They both attended school in Irma while we lived there.

In November of 1968 Tom applied for a mechanic's job at Vermilion College, known then as V.A.V.C. and started working there December 16. Vermilion has been our home since then.

He saw many changes take place in the course of the years he worked at the College. He retired the end of September 1983. Now his hobbies are working in his own shop at home and enjoying retirement.

WESTLEY BACON FAMILY

by Allie Bacon

Wes was born in October of 1909 to Mr. and Mrs. William Bacon of Central, Saskatchewan. He was the eldest of nine children and in 1918 he came, at the age of nine, with his parents, a brother and two sisters, to the Irma area. They lived first in the Roseberry district and later in Sunny Brae and Roseberry. Wes attended school at Roseberry and Sunny Brae. However he stopped school at an early age to help with the farming. He was always happy to be driving horses, as well as farming at home. In the fall he drove a stook team on a threshing outfit. They put in long days and were tired at night, but this was the way of harvest then, before combines came into being.

Another of Wes' hobbies was playing his violin. In later years when he was working for Mr. Farthing, (northeast of Irma) he played in an orchestra with Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Anderson, who lived on what is now Frank Crabb's farm. They practised every Wednesday night and on Friday nights they usually played for a dance at one of the local schools.

This next paragraph is taken from a write-up in the Irma Times of 1957. it reads as follows:



Wes and Allie Bacon's wedding day, March 31st, 1943.

"It took Mr. Wes Bacon to put the final touch to Christmas. He had been listening to "Jingle Bells" on the radio, when it occurred to him that children of today just don't know the true meaning of that old song. Because he owned a beautiful team of black Percheron horses, he had it in his power to make the song become a reality to the children of Irma.

So in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, he harnessed up the big blacks in decorated harness, complete with sleigh bells, and hitched them to the sleighs with either hayrack or box, and came to town giving free rides to all and sundry among the younger citizens. We understand that at this particular time (1957) he loaded up the rack four times and had as many as fifty-eight passengers on one trip.

Needless to say the youngsters enjoyed every minute of it and will remember Mr. Bacon and his horses, the rest of their lives, and what fun it is to "ride in a two horse open sleigh!" After this Wes continued the practice for several years. He also took part in the parades on Irma Sports days, usually hitched to one of the town's floats.

I, Allie (Allison) Bacon, (nee Hunter) was born in Manitoba in February, 1917. My dad had a homestead in southern Saskatchewan, near Shaunavon. However mother chose to go back to Manitoba for our births, where she had a sister who was a nurse. In June, 1919 I was joined by twin brothers, also born in Manitoba. This completed the family. About 1921 my folks sold the homestead and moved to northern Saskatchewan, near the city of Prince Albert, where my dad had two brothers. We settled near the town of Birch Hills, on a farm, and we attended the Coolidge School, named for a young man of that name who gave his life in the first World War. Following Grade VIII we could still attend the school for grades IX and X, by taking it by correspondence lessons and the teacher helping us when she had time. I always remember the last day of school

when I finished Grade X, I felt very sad at being finished at the country school. For the rest of high school we had to go to school in the town.

So the depression years went on and we were growing up. Our pleasures were in the district, a dance or social at the school and picnics in the summer.

In 1942 in February, Wes came from Alberta to visit relatives who were neighbors of ours. On his last evening there, his aunt had a small party of young people in, and that is how Wes and I met. On March 31st, 1943, we were married in the United Church manse in Wainwright. We lived on the Farthing place for the next four years. In 1947, in February, our son Stanley was born and that spring we took over the home farm, where we resided until ill-health made it necessary for Wes to retire.

Stan grew up here. He attended school in Irma for his twelve years. He also belonged to the Irma Band and 4-H Beef Club during this time. Finally came Graduation Day from school on May 14th, 1965. He was at home for a year and then went to Saskatchewan where he did photography work for the C.B.C. at Swift Current and Regina.

He met Lynn Samletzki of Melfort, Saskatchewan and they married in August, 1969. They and their family of three now reside in Nipawin, Saskatchewan.

In April, 1968, Wes suffered a heart attack and with help, we managed to keep the farm. Then the next year we were on our own. Following a second attack we had to rent the farm and the cattle. He passed away in December of 1971, very suddenly.

Since then I have continued to rent the farm and live in town. I really miss the farm life having been used to it all my life.



Stanley and his dog.



Wes and Stanley Bacon, 1949.



Mrs. W. Bacon, Sr. and Wes's team ready for Irma Parade.

WILLIAM BACON FAMILY

by Mrs. Allison M. Bacon

Margaret Simmons and William Bacon, both natives of Ontario, came with members of their respective families to near Lestock in Central Saskatchewan, where they all homesteaded. On March 18th, 1908, they were married in the little town of Dysart nearby, and continued to live in the district for the next few years.

In April of 1918, they, with four of their eventual nine children, (the latter five being born in Alberta) and the Harvey family (I should mention here that Mrs. Bacon and Mrs. Harvey were sisters) moved to the Irma district, at first living northeast of town, on the land where Fred Younker now resides. From here the Bacons moved to the Roseberry school district, on to the Chapell land, from which Wes and Dave attended Roseberry school. They then moved southeast of town, and then the children attended Sunny Brae school. Eventually, they moved across to the south of the Gratton Coulee, as most of their farming land was on that side. Then the younger members of the family attended Strawberry Plains

school. They continued on here until about 1950 when Grandma and Grandpa Bacon moved into Irma, where Grandpa passed away on July 28th, 1956. Grandma spent most of her remaining years with her daughter, Margaret Johnston, first in Edmonton, then in Wainwright. It was here that she passed away on March 26th, 1971.

On March 31st, 1943, I, Allison (nee Hunter) was married to Westley Bacon, the eldest son, and in 1947 we took over the "home farm", and continued on, until ill health forced Wes' retirement from active farming. He passed away on December 24th, 1971, and I have still kept the farm.

Of the nine children, seven remain, though do not live in the Irma district now. Three of the sons - Dave, Albert and Archie served in the Air Force during the war years, while the others worked long hours on farms, helping with much needed food production and very often, being short of help, in the busiest seasons of the year.

ALFRED AND FAY BADRY

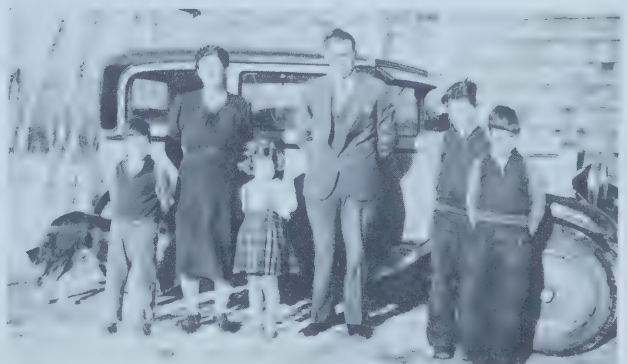
Alfred and Fay moved to the Robert and Henry Kasten farm, three miles south and three miles west of Irma in March 1948. They had one daughter Marilyn at this time and a son Donald was born here in 1950. They farmed this land until October of 1951 at which time they purchased their own farm near Donald, Alberta, where they were blessed with another daughter Sherry and two more sons Al and Dale. Alf and Fay retired in 1980 and are residing in Donald.

GERHARD G. BAERGEN

by Bill Baergen

Gerhard and Maria (Peters) Baergen farmed at Irma from 1934 to 1943. Before coming to Irma they had farmed at Sedalia where George's parents had settled in 1925, the year they left Russia. They moved from Irma in 1943 to an irrigated farm in the Vauxhall district and from 1955 on have made their permanent home in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

George and Mary cleared the brush and broke the sod on a C.P.R. quarter three miles northwest of Irma,



Willy, Maria, Lily, Gerhard, Ernest, and Robert Baergen.



Cousin of the Bacons from Saskatchewan. Mr. W. Bacon, Sr., Miss Ethel Bacon of Clark Manor, Florence (Bacon) Tindall, Auntie from Saskatchewan, Mary (Bacon) Pasha.

CHARLES BAKER FAMILY

by Murle (Baker) Larson



Ernie, Bob, Willy, and Lil Baergen in their buggy.

neighbors of Herberts, Gwinns, Hagers, Klassens, Archibalds and Charters. The frame house in the picture kept warm by sods was the birthplace of four of their five children. The eldest son, Ernest, was born in Sedalia in 1932. Robert was born in this frame house in 1934, Willie in 1935, Lily in 1937 and Helen in 1938. Baby Helen lived only two months and died of pneumonia.

The four remaining children were fortunate enough to realize their parents' dreams for them by furthering their education that began in the Irma school with teachers like Miss Longmire, Mrs. Holt and Mr. Gunn. Lily is completing her Master's degree in Nursing Administration and is the Director of Nursing Office at the University Hospital in Saskatoon; Ernie became a medical doctor and is now the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Medical Association; Bob completed a B.Sc. and teaches Mathematics at the Red River Community College in Winnipeg; Bill completed his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon in 1982 and is the Deputy Superintendent of the Stettler School district.

Lily and her husband, Dr. Carl Krause, have three children, Stuart, Risa and Tanya. Ernie and his wife Irene (nee Enns), an R.N. from Carrot River, Saskatchewan, raised five daughters, Brenda, Donna, Cheryl, Heather and Glenna. Bob married Betty Wedel, a C.M.B.C. student from Chilliwack, B.C. and their family consists of Donald, Darlene, Beverly, Robert and Kerri. Bill married Donna Green, R.N. from Widewater, Alberta, and their children are Patricia-Jo, Grant and James.

Our Dad passed away in December, 1981 and that leaves Mother alone. She lives in a nice apartment in Saskatoon and keeps in touch with her church and her friends. Ernie and Irene, and Carl and Lily are never too far away to help.

I was pleased to be asked to contribute a little something to this book and I look forward to seeing the family stories of all our former friends and neighbors. Irma will always hold a special place in our family's heart.

Nothing stretches slacks like snacks.

The Baker family came from Holland early in the eighteenth century and settled in Pennsylvania, later moving to Auburn, Indiana. My father and his one sister were born there. My father left Indiana as a young man to seek a life out west. He arrived in Saskatoon in 1910 and obtained work where he met and married my mother.

My mother, Mary Simpson, was raised in Emerson, Manitoba, born into a family of five children. They were farmers. Mother also was seeking a new life so worked in Saskatoon.

The call of the west was upon them shortly after they were married and they came to Edmonton in 1912 where my father worked as a carpenter. Work was not plentiful, nor were wages high. They found an advertisement in the Edmonton Bulletin for a couple to work on a farm - the farm being north of Fabyan, owned by J.G. Clark.

Father and mother and my oldest brother a baby born July, 1913 came to work for fifty dollars a month for both of them. Father worked as a farmhand and Mother as cook. The days were from four in the morning till eleven at night, just sitting down to eat meals in their busy life. Many times Mother found she didn't have time to look after her baby as they always had a crew of men to cook for, dishes to wash, bread to bake, clothes to wash, board floors to scrub and many other tasks. They stayed there six months and moved to Irma in 1914 where my father worked for Peterson and Stuart (I believe in the butcher shop), but my father wanted to be outside so he went to work for Tom Woods and Roy Merry. Tom Woods was a well driller and dug many wells in the early days. Mother again did the housework. By this time a brother Earl, born April 27th, 1915, had been added to the family. Doctor McGregor was the doctor, and Mrs. Alf Burton, Joe Burton's mother, took care of mother. In those days children were born at home. Another daughter Murle came in November, 1916.

Mother and Father were finally able to take homestead north of Ross school in 1917. They homesteaded S.W. 32-46-9-W4th, land now owned by Ronnie Larson. My Father built a lumber house and a bank barn which proved to be very warm. They purchased a white-faced cow for fifty dollars which was a lot of money, a small mare, Babe, which all ten of us children learned to ride. What a faithful animal she was! You could ride, drive or work her in the field. She lived to be over thirty years old. Later years many times when my step-father was hunting the cattle he found a yearling or animal, Dad would just tie it to Babe's tail and she would take it home.

Their second daughter, Goldie, was born May, 1918. Mrs. Ellis who lived on Hughie Kennedy's place took care of mother.

My father had not been a well man, yet kept on working as it was necessary to make a living for his family. He was very handy at carpentry work and took many jobs. He had just finished painting the Ross school the day before he died. He passed away at six o'clock in the morning November 12th, 1918, and what a shock to a young wife and mother!



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baker, 1911.



Mrs. Charles Baker and Earl.

The flu was on at the time. People were not allowed to hold public gatherings as the flu was so contagious. the funerals were generally just the family and held at the cemetery. They could not dig graves fast enough, and there were either five or six people buried the same day as father. A person could not buy a casket. Mr. Frank Pederson, Grace Archibald's grandfather, made father's casket for thirty-five dollars. It was a plain box, quite nicely lined. They all had the same kind of caskets.

My mother's father came from Manitoba and stayed a month with her, and our paternal grandfather came from Indiana and stayed with mother and us kids for a year.

How to make a living with a baby five months old and three small children, no running water, cars, electricity or conveniences of any kind was certainly a problem, but mother had great courage and determination to keep her family together. Remember this was the wild west for a young mother to face. My father had a life insurance which really saved the day for us, as there was no widow's allowance, welfare or family allowance.

The cattle had increased so we had milk and butter and mother was always a good gardener so we made ends meet. When Mother was alone with the children many things happened that were very frightful as feed stacks were being burned all around to keep the settlers out, as the ranchers wanted open range.

One night my mother had to go stay at Dave Ambler's as he and his wife had to be away, and Dave had an old aunt living with them as well as Dave's young daughter,

Eva. Mother took Earl on the saddle horse with her (Granddad Baker was home with us). As they were about to go to bed, they saw a fire north of Dave Ambler's directly in line with another settler's house. Leaving Earl with the aunt, mother rode her horse one mile north to the family home, but found the haystack had been set on fire. Mother rapped and rapped on the door but was unable to waken the people; so decided they must be at the dance a few miles away as there was always a dance to get the people away when the fires were set. Mother found out later the family were all at home but she couldn't wake them.

Many times strangers came in the evening or night, some lost, some hungry. It was hard to know who to trust but mother felt God was watching over her. One morning mother went to the barn to feed the stock and could see where someone had lain in the hay but was up and gone.

Many settlers came and went. The McPhersons lived near or with Charlie Olsen but didn't stay long. The Smithies lived directly north of Ross school on the Dave Ambler place. He was a returned man, a good neighbor but not a farmer, so they soon left. Years later my husband and I were in Edmonton at the Farmers' market and here was Smithie selling homemade chocolates. He remembered me as a child and of course my husband knew him. A man by the name of Freeman and his wife settled on S.E. 32-49-9-W4th. He had a lot of cattle, also brought a stock man, Jim Case, who was a fine person. These people didn't stay long either as burning, stealing and all kinds of treachery was going on. The Hutterites now own the Freeman Ranch as it was called.

The O'Rourke's (a large family) lived just west of Jim Kennedy. I especially remember their oldest girl, Bella. She was a dear girl just enough older than I that I adored her. She always seemed to have so many brothers and sisters to look after. They didn't stay too long either and we heard shortly after they left Bella had died.



Orville Baker four years old (note clothing fashion).

Most of the early settlers were good people just wanting to make a living for their families. Some couldn't make it because it was a hard life and some were forced out by the greed of the ones who wanted the open land for range. Finally Mother sold the homestead to Harry Clark and we moved on to the Freeman Ranch two miles north of Ross school and Earl and Orville were able to attend school. Ronnie Larson now owns our homestead.

One day a man rode into our place looking for cattle as the animals could go for miles. Mother asked him to stay for dinner. He later became her husband and a father for us Baker children. The ending of this story will be under "William Lockhart".

Orville finished his education at Batts school, then went to work for Holts for several years. He then went to Lumby B.C. and drove a lumber piler. He met and married his wife Nora to whom two children were born. Bruce of Vancouver and Bonnie of Ontario. Later he moved to Vancouver where he worked at the post office. He and his wife now retired, live at Abbotsford, enjoying fishing and traveling.

Earl took his public school at Batts, then on to Jarrow High School. He was a good student as school came very easy for him. He worked for Holts for a number of years. He then went to Edmonton where he took a civil engineer's course. Later being engineer for the Northern Alberta Railroads till poor health forced an early retirement. Earl married Germaine Noyin in 1940. Five children were born to this couple; Marlene, Carol, John, Jim and Joe. Earl and Germaine and their children reside in Edmonton and he greatly enjoys his family and his grandchildren.

I had my education at Batts, stayed home to help my parents for several years, then in 1939 married Alf Larson and lived on the farm north of Irma till Alf's passing in 1966.

One son Philip and his wife Evelyn live on the farm and have three children, Linda, Douglas and Darren, attending school in Irma. I moved to Irma in 1968 and keep myself busy with garden and flowers, enjoying my grandchildren and serving the Lord.

Goldie also went to Batts school, worked out some, then married Harry Wadley and lived at Edson. Two children were born to them, Betty at Edson and Ronnie at Hinton. Goldie and her husband live at Hinton where he is a mine inspector and Goldie keeps busy knitting, crocheting and her pride and delight are her grandchildren.

BALLENTINE FAMILY

by Cynthia Ballentine

John and Jessie Ballentine (Lees) were married in the Arcola, Saskatchewan district in 1905. A son, John Edward Ballentine, was born in 1906 in this district. They moved to Sydney, British Columbia, where they lived for a number of years. Later they moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where Helen Lees Ballentine was born. John Edward (Jack) went to school in Edmonton, in January, 1921. The family took up residence on the S.E. 12-47-8. They bought the northwest and the southeast quarters from a Mr. Reid, and later the northeast quarter from Mr. Stebbins. The southeast quarter was homesteaded by Pierce Parsons, Wes Parson's grandfather. The northwest quarter was homesteaded by George Parsons, father of Wes Parsons and the northeast quarter was homesteaded by Mr. Baker.

John Edward (Jack) helped his father with the farming from the age of fourteen. Helen, his sister, attended Passchendale School for a year and a half until Avonglen school was built. This school, among others was built by Mr. James Craig Sr. Helen became a teacher, first at Battle Heights, later at Mascot and Roseberry districts. She married George A. Taylor of Fabyan, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Taylor. They have four children:

Richard married to Florence Whiteley, now living in Surrey, B.C. David and Lynne Taylor living in Calgary have two sons, Christopher and Andrew. Allan Taylor married Marguerite Hubbard; their two sons are Michael and Matthew. Their daughter Diane Taylor married Bruce Smith, they have one son Courtney.

John Ballentine Sr. passed away in the harvest season of 1932. His son, Jack, managed the threshing outfit and the farming operation for his mother, Jessie Ballentine. John married a Passchendale teacher, Cynthia Marjorie Leslie, in the spring of 1935. Cynthia was born in Baldur, Manitoba, but moved west with her parents to Saskatoon, Calgary and Edmonton, where she received most of her schooling. After teaching two years near Mayerthorpe, Alberta, she taught at Passchendale for four years before becoming Mrs. Ballentine. For two years after this she taught Robert Whiteley his grade eleven and twelve privately before he attended University of Alberta. She also coached Doris (Anderson) Inkin



Jessie, Helen, Jack and John Ballentine.

during the first part of her high school. Cynthia taught Avonglen School during 1937 to 1939.

Jack and Bill Whiteley bought the first combine in the district in 1939 and switched from threshing to combining their crops. They were at that time considered young radicals.

In 1940 Leslie Edward Ballentine was born, Sheila Maureen in 1944 and Dorothy Anne in 1947. Leslie attended school at Avonglen. Later Leslie, Sheila and Dorothy attended Orbindale where their mother taught.

When C.M. Ballentine moved to Irma to teach in the Irma high school the three children completed their education under principal D.H. Gunn. All three were Valedictorians of their graduating class. Leslie graduated from University of Alberta receiving his B.Sc. in Engineering Physics. He continued on, receiving his Master of Science in Theoretical Physics at the University of Alberta. He then attended Cambridge University in England where he received his Doctorate in Theoretical Physics, at the age of twenty-six. After spending a year at University of Toronto and two years Post Doctoral studies at University of Alberta he joined the staff of Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. He married Teresa McCallum, a Vancouver teacher. They have two children: Gregory Edward and Jennifer Noreen. As Simon Fraser representative Leslie is called on to speak at World Physics Conferences. This summer he will be taking his family along to one in West Germany.

Sheila attended University of Alberta, where she met and married Barry Spence of Edmonton. At present they are both teaching in Red Deer. Their son Sean Michael is now in his third year in science at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Sean who has played trumpet since he was ten, was invited to tour European and British centers with an American Concert band in 1982.

Sheila has recently been appointed to the Program for the Gifted Students in Red Deer.

Dorothy also attended University of Alberta receiving her B.Sc., M.Sc. and Doctorate in Pharmacy. In between degrees she married Wayne Kenneth Jeffery of Edmonton, also a M. Sc. in Pharmacy now completing his Doctorate degree in Pharmacy. After teaching at the Pharmacy Department in Edmonton and also doing research in Pharmacy they moved to Burnaby, B.C. Wayne had been head of the Crime Detection Laboratory

of the R.C.M.P. in Edmonton and was promoted to the head of Toxicology R.C.M.P. Vancouver. They have one daughter, Barbara Jean. Dorothy works in Research Pharmacy at University of B.C. as does John Hlynka, formerly of Irma. Both Dorothy and Wayne are active in administrative work in the Canadian Racquetball Association. Dorothy coaches the junior (under thirty) racquetball women and has accompanied B.C. contingents to two Canada Games in Regina 1979 and last year in Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean, P.Q. 1983.

Jack was secretary treasurer of Passchendale United Church Sunday School for many years before the rural church meetings were suspended (1930-35). Jack acted as director of Roseberry Rural Electrification for twenty-five years. He is still a director of the local United Grain Growers company. Jack and Cynthia, now retired, live in Irma. Jack owns the farm which is rented to the sons of the late Frank Ford Jr. and Alma Ford. Cynthia retired from teaching in the Irma High School in 1976, after thirty-four years of teaching in Alberta.

Jack passed away on March 2, 1985.



Jack Ballentine and Don Mullins excavating for the new Ballentine home.



Jack Ballentine family: Leslie, Cynthia, Teresa, Jack, Wayne Jeffery, Dorothy (Ballentine) Jeffery, Barry Spence, Sheila (Ballentine) Spence. Front: Sean Spence.

Old truck drivers never die - they just make the grade.

If the safety pin had been invented this year, it would probably have had six moving parts and two transisters and require a serviceman twice a year.

BRUCE BARBER FAMILY

In 1910 Mr. Simon Barber and his two sons Wm. T. Barber and Bruce Barber, left Shawville, Quebec and came west to Irma, Alberta. They filed on homesteads in the Irma vicinity. Bruce Barber filed on the S.W. 12-46-9-W4th.

In 1911 Mary I. Palmer left her home at Yarm, Quebec, coming to Irma. Mary stayed with her cousin Emma Barber (Mrs. W.T. Barber) for a few days prior to her marriage to Bruce Barber on January 18th, 1911. Mary and Bruce's wedding was the first wedding in the Irma United Church. They lived at Irma until the spring of 1920, moving to Kinsella to the Kneebone farm which was located on N.W. 1/4 24-47-11-W4th. At this time we were a family of four, namely Gordon, Arthur, Iva and William.

In the spring of 1922 the Barber family moved into Kinsella, buying the livery barn, livery service and town dray service, also a home which is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty. Bruce kept his business only a short time, selling it to George Lee. Bruce went to work for the C.N.R., the crew known as the B. & B. Building and repairing bridges, also the stations and the round house. Bruce worked for the railroad about six years, returning to the farm in 1926.

The spring of 1930 the Barber family moved to the Quinte district.

In August of 1936 the family left for Shawville, Quebec. Leaving by car were Mr. and Mrs. Barber, Gordon, Jack, George, Amy, Merle, Glenn, Susan, Isabel and Lois. Brother Bill went with a carload of cattle, arriving at Shawville about the same time as the family going by car. Arthur was working in the district so he didn't go to eastern Canada till the following February.

Iva being married at that time was the only one of the family remaining in Alberta.

On February 10th, 1937 Bruce was killed while working at a logging camp. Jack was killed in an airplane crash at Debert, N.S. in the spring of 1941. Mrs. Barber passed away on December 20th, 1958. Glenn, the youngest son, passed away in April, 1961.



Bruce and Mae Barber.

Gordon and Arthur and their families live at Sudbury, Ontario. William and Susan Barber Russel live in Ottawa. Amy Barber Griffith lives in Montreal. Merle Hobbs, Isabel Elliott, Lois Callaghan live at Shawville, Quebec. George Barber lives in Vancouver. Iva Hodgins lives in Viking, Alberta



Edward, Molly, Molleen and Dennis Barber when they were living in Vegreville.

DENNIS BARBER FAMILY

by Dennis Barber

I am the eldest member of an early pioneer family in this district. I was born on my parents' homestead just north of Irma. Schooling to grade eleven was in Irma, and grade twelve in Edmonton. My sister Eleanor and I attended Edmonton Normal School graduating in 1931 with first class teaching certificates.

From 1932-35 I boarded at home while teaching at Ross School where the late Fred Challis was secretary-treasurer. My next employment was in the Westlock area for six years. While employed there I was married to Mary J. (Molly) Miskimmons of Auburndale, in the Irma United Church. Another happy event was the birth of our only daughter, Molleen in Barrhead. In 1941, I was employed by the Vegreville School Division. This lasted for eighteen years teaching in three rural schools, plus Innisfree and Vegreville. While in this area our only son, Edward, was born. Then in 1959 we moved to Edmonton where I taught for twelve years, retiring in 1971 after thirty-nine years in the classroom. In retirement we enjoy travel, reading, I.O.O.F. Lodge, gardening, some volunteer work and visiting our children and four grandchildren.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM T. BARBER

by Clarence and Jennie Barber

Mr. Wm. Barber filed on homestead S.W. 2-46-9-W4th at the filing office at Mannville, Alberta on May 6th, 1906. Mannville being where the Old Grand Trunk Railway line ran, and on into Edmonton. A five acre plot was broken, a well dug, and "Bill" returned to Shawville, Quebec. There he had a carload of lumber prepared during the winter, and shipped west for their

home and Bruce Barber's home which was located on the present Bill Inkin farmsite.

Mr. W. T. Barber and Sarah Emily Hodgins were married in Shawville, Quebec, on February 9th, 1909, and came west to make their home on the homestead. To this union were born six children, Gordon, Dennis, Eleanor, Clarence, Harold and Louisa. Son Gordon died in infancy June, 1911, for which the Irma Cemetery was founded.

Mr. and Mrs. Barber were staunch Methodist and later United Church supporters, helping to build the United Church. They also helped take care of patients in the 1918 flu when the church served as a hospital. The children all being church attenders down through the years. Mrs. Barber's life centered around her home; the Irma Women's Institute and a few years of Rebekah Lodge membership. Mr. Barber served his community in many interest; United Grain Growers, Wheat Pool, School Board Trustee, and a fifty-year membership in Independent Order of Oddfellows Lodge. He also helped build the C.N. Railway bed.



Clarence Barber - eight horses and three furrow plow in 1937.

mittee, School Board Trustee, United Grain Growers, Agriculture Committee, Irma Women's Institute, Craft Club, curling club. Clarence and Jennie are both ardent bowlers.

Mr. Harold Barber lived in the town of Irma and worked as Pool Room Operator, and Gulf Oil Distributor. Donna Stenson became his wife, and their family of Kenneth, Fay and Jerry make Irma their home. Harold served on the Irma Town Council for a number of years and was a curler for years. Harold passed away January 9th, 1981.

Louisa - Mrs. Ervin Prosser, lives in Irma, following retirement from a very good teaching career and A.T.A. activities. Her husband Ervin Prosser, a barber by trade and later carpenter, passed away October 17th, 1975. Louisa has worked long for the United Church, Irma Women's Institute, curling club, besides school activities. Her daughters Linda Pomeroy and Correen Larson make Irma and district their homes.

HAROLD AND MABEL BARKER

Mable came with her folks (Bert Yakes) and brothers about 1912-13 and lived in a sod house on the Stanton Groner place north of Loughheed.

Bert and family next purchased the half section of 19 and built the house that Francis Bovencamp now lives in. Mable married Harold Barker in 1927 and moved to the Harry McCracken place. She well remembers the dust storms while living here.

Harold and Mable then purchased the W. Ratledge farm where they lived until they retired, moving into Sedgewick.

Harold will be remembered for his honey, and Mable for her interest in gardening and growing fruit trees.

C. H. BARSS FAMILY

Harley was second born into the family of Layton and Mary Barss. Farming with his father and older brother, John, was his life for many years. He also worked in lumber mills and at a paper mill before joining the army in World War II. After active service and a safe return, Harley started farming on his own. In 1951 he married Marjorie (Marney) Kennedy. The next thirty years were spent raising six children. All the children attended



W.T. Barber Family - 1949-50. Bill, Emily, Dennis, Eleanor, Clarence, Harold, Louisa.

Mr. and Mrs. Barber farmed on the homestead until 1950 when they moved to Irma and spent their retirement years. Mrs. Barber passed away February 26th, 1957 - 79 years of age. Mr. Barber lived on in his home, except for two months spent in Viking Vialta Lodge and passed away September 26th, 1962 - 78 years.

Mr. Dennis Barber was educated at Irma and Edmonton, followed by a teaching career. Molly Miskimmons became his wife and they have a family of two children. Molleen lives in Calgary and Edward resides in St. Albert. Dennis is now retired from a very good teaching career, and has made his home in Edmonton for the past twenty-two years. Dennis and Molly are still active in church, lodge and community activities.

Eleanor - Mrs. Norman Willerton, history story - Willerton Farms.

Mr. Clarence Barber obtained his education in the Irma School, afterwards worked on the homestead with his father and expanded the holdings. In 1950 Clarence replaced the original farm home, by the purchase of Sunnybrae School and has made a comfortable home. Jennie Whitbeck became his bride and together continue farming and community activities. Clarence has served his community in many ways; Senior Golf Club Com-



C.H. Barss family, November, 1981. Back Row: Jim Barss, Garth Earl, Lyle, Hal. Middle Row: Marney (mother), Heather, Rita Earl, Lynette, Harley (father). Front Row: Terri-Lyn, Susan, Bob, Trent.

Albert school until it was closed and the children were bussed to Irma.

Jim, the oldest, worked on oil rigs after he finished school. He married Heather Oracheski and started farming in 1972. They have built a new home on the former L.H. Barss farm. Their grain farm is in the midst of the oil field. They have three children, Trent, Teri-lyn and Trichia Ann. Heather helps teach figure skating in the Irma Figure Skating Club. Jim plays hockey with a recreation team at Mannville. They are members of the Albert Community Club.

Rita took a hairdressing course after completing high school. She worked for Sharon King in Wainwright for a couple of years, then worked as chair assistant for Dr. Colin Hauck at the Wainwright Dental Clinic. In 1976 she married Garth Earl, R.C.M.P., who hails from Cabri, Saskatchewan. They have lived at Drumheller since they got married. Rita worked at the Drumheller Branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia until recently, when she got her license for selling real estate with Century 21. Last November they had a son, Jordan. Garth was transferred to Coronation in April, 1983, where they've made their new home.

Robert has been a cat skinner and truck driver since his school days. He worked out of Wainwright and Vermilion for several years.

Bob married Susan Anderson from Minburn in 1981. She worked as stenographer for the Court in Edmonton until they got married and is now employed at the town office in Mannville. Bob's still running cats and driving trucks during the winter. They are members of the Irma Curling Club. They are starting to farm part of what was his dad's land to the west and have started a farmstead one and one-half miles west of C.H.'s corner. They have a daughter, Nicole Joyce Marie.

Hal and Lyle have been employed in the oil fields since

they finished school. They have worked for several companies. The past three years they have both worked as rig hands for Bodar Drilling. They both do some farming on their time off. It's not determined yet if they'll be future farmers or oil business personnel.

Lynette, the youngest of the family, just completed a course in X-ray technology at the U. of A. Hospital in Edmonton and has been employed at the Calgary General since December, 1982.

Harley and Marney are enjoying the odd holiday and their grandchildren. Harley's always been a lover of livestock and has some cattle and horses. In 1980 he was elected to the Mannville Hospital board and has found this quite interesting.

Marney has had some music ability brushed off on to her from her dad, Jimmy Kennedy, and has enjoyed playing in orchestras since school days when Mrs. Hurst had the all-girl orchestra. We've been members of the Albert Community Club since it started and enjoy the fellowship of the club and community. We've lived the "good years" and the "not so good" but none can beat the "raising the family" years.

DAVID BARSS AND FAMILY

The problem with writing one's biography for the District History is that it triggers a flood of memories which in turn could soon become one's own 1025-page "Roots" book!! Not that I'm complaining. It's a joy to recall some of the events of one's life; to hear about the highlights in the lives of others; and to pass on a cultural heritage to our children and children's children.

ABOUT THE EARLY DAYS

My appearance in the Barss family took place on January 10th, 1928 at the Mannville Hospital - so I'm told! I hope most people have good memories of early childhood days (and adult days for that matter). In any case I certainly do - giving due allowance for the mind to forget the bad and remember the good. Although, there were depression years, I was (and I assume most children were) oblivious to the hardships our parents and other adults faced; food was good and plentiful; clothes were warm (and we didn't have to worry about style); the coal and wood fires could handle the poorly insulated houses even on a very cold winter night; most children had a dog and horse and other animals to keep them company; in the springtime there was always a slough to try out the "new model raft"; there was the excitement and fascination when the threshing crews moved in usually manned by a diverse set of characters; there was opportunity to spend all day with friends Robin, Don, Lloyd or others riding in the hills; and on and on.

So in the years 1928 to 1938, in the midst of the depression, I at least led a life that was full of good "vibes". Some highlights of that time follow:

New Shoes (with hooks yet!): In the winters of the 30's and earlier, it was not practical for reason of roads or automobile capability to go to town in the car or truck. Therefore, the trip to town was made by sleigh and was

an important event. There was always great excitement when Dad arrived home with assorted groceries and parcels of this and that. On one occasion, there was a new pair of shiny black boots for me and I announced proudly to everyone that "they had three hooks on them" (instead of the eyeholes). Why I was so impressed with hooks, I do not know - but I was - and I got kidded about it from that time on.

House on Fire--False Alarm: In the upstairs bedroom of our original house, there was a hole with metal liner in the floor where once a metal chimney had been in place. For some reason, the metal pipe had been removed. I awoke with a panic one night, leapt out of bed and shouted "the house is on fire", for I saw a light flickering on my wall, it being cast through the chimney hole in the floor. To my embarrassment, it turned out that sister Kathleen had a visitor downstairs and the flickering light was merely that of the kerosene lamp.

Straw Stack on Fire - The Real Thing: This event occurred as we were threshing immediately to the west of our house. I was looking after the filling of the truck with grain and had "No. 1 Ringside Seat" for I was looking at the stack the instant that the fire started. It caught fire at the uppermost tip of the stack - probably from a piece of rock or metal that had blasted out of the blower of the threshing machine. I shouted to the men and pointed to the fire. Everyone pitched in as if they had gone through a fire drill. The truck was moved, the teams of the unloading racks whisked away, the threshing machine shut down and moved, while all the time other men were emptying the grain from the nearby full granary onto the ground out of reach of the fire. It seemed to take not more than five minutes for the whole event - including the burning of the stack and granary - to take place.

Horses, Horses, Horses: It was a rare occasion that a boy on the prairies did not have a horse of some kind - it could have been of any size, shape or color, from a Shetland pony to a workhorse, but they had a horse (and of course a dog or two). It has seemed to me that I was riding before I was walking. Horses were ridden to school, even if only a one-half mile; we rode to visit and play at each friend's home; we rode in the unfenced "Hills" all day long, we rode to get the milk cows; and so on, and so on. We knew the character of each other's horse almost as well as we knew the friends. In retrospect, we were sometimes crazy for we rode at full tilt in the darkness of the night or across the hills where there were hidden badger holes. On one occasion I remember my horse slipping and rolling over me while on the gallop. I emerged slightly shaken but unhurt. I guess the "Father Above" had not decided it was time. We did enjoy our horses.

The House that Gerald Currie Built (and Robin tried to Destroy!) I guess I spent more time playing with Robin Johnson in those early years than anyone else. He would come to spend a day with me or vice versa. On one occasion we were in the advanced stage of completing the building of our new house - specifically, Gerald Currie was carrying out the delicate fitting of doors to the frame and was in the process of maneuvering a door into place. Thinking I was hiding behind the door, Robin gave it a big shove, only to receive a thunderous rebuke from

Gerald Currie. I recognized a very sheepish look on Robin's face when he later wandered into the barn where I *really* was. It wasn't until later that I found out about the disastrous deed Robin had pulled on Mr. Currie!



David Barss, Robin Johnson, Hugh Fleming, Maurice Millar and Jean and Joan Fleming.

There Was Work Done: Life on the farm in those early childhood days was not all fun and games; there was work to be done. I suppose carrying in wood for the stove was one of my first tasks. I have a hazy recollection of finding excuses or not being around at critical times. It wasn't long before one took part of the major morning and evening chores - carrying water and "chop" to the pigs or cattle, feeding hay to the cattle and horses, milking cows and cleaning barns, fixing fences and all the tasks familiar to a farm boy of that era. None of the tasks were easy and some were plain hard work - like carrying two five-gallon pails of water some 100 yards or more. But it was more the type of work than the degree of hardness of work that one remembers. For example, milking cows was never my strong point, so that older brothers or sisters often took pity on me. Picking roots (and rocks) seemed to me to be one of the more unpleasant tasks of those years on the farm. It was boring, hard work. Mind you, facing a quarter section of bundles that had to be stood upright (stooked), was a daunting task for us young fellows. I suppose the hardest manual work I've ever performed in my life was loading bundles on to a rack, driving the team of horses to the threshing machine and then unloading the bundles into the machine. As I recall, there were six teams on Dad's threshing crew. When the equipment and everything was working well, it kept one hopping to keep the threshing machine stuffed with bundles. And, of course, everyone knew who was or was not keeping up his end of the work. Yet, threshing was a farm job that I enjoyed most as a youngster and work meant getting up at 5:00 a.m., feeding horses, having a huge breakfast, and being at work between 7:00-8:00 a.m. and then working about ten hours and unharnessing the horses at 7:00 in the evening. It probably was a combination of the esprit de corps of working with a group of men (many who were interesting characters), the hijinks and fun and games that went on, and good food that brings forth the good memories. As

well, there was a sense of pride - the best team of horses, the best and fastest in building a large load of bundles, the one who was most dexterous with the pitchfork and so on. In that regard, brother Harley would win hands down. He had a low steel-wheeled wagon, from which a load of bundles would rise to towering heights as straight and well formed as if it had been trimmed with giant scissors. I can still see his loads with him on top swaying back and forth as it made its way across the uneven field to the threshing machine.

The Steel Monster: There were many other jobs on the farm, but the one I'll conclude with was running the tractor. I can still vaguely remember the four and six-horse teams used for seeding, harrowing, plowing and then progressing to the steel-wheeled McCormick Deering 15-30 tractor and finally the advanced International Farmall (M) rubber-tired tractor! My debut with tractors occurred at the early age of twelve. Harley was away in the army overseas and so help was needed. At this time (about 1940), the equipment had been mostly converted from horse-drawn to the steel-wheel tractor drawn capability. One of my first assignments from brother John was to drive the tractor that pulled the binder. The binder was a fairly complicated piece of equipment, so John rode behind me on it. The tractor was a brute to handle - at least for a "pint-sized" kid. Moreover, the front wheels had the nasty habit of locking into position when making a fairly sharp turn. The first time this happened, I was making a 90° turn at a corner to come round and swing parallel to the standing wheat from the previous cut. As I headed for the standing wheat, I couldn't get the wheels unlocked - so right into the corner of the wheat field I went and right on through! Frustrated, angry and sheepish I finally brought the steel monster to halt by remembering to shove in the clutch. Fortunately, John saw the humor in the situation and we carried on. The Farmall M rubber-tired tractor that came along later was a "piece of cake" to handle by comparison. I subsequently spent many long days, but not unhappy ones, on the various tractor jobs in the field.

Those Cold Winter Nights (and Days): This may sound ridiculous - but there is a certain warmth in my memories of wintertime on the farm. The memories that come drifting back are

- making some hockey pads from the felt of horse's collar and then off to clear some ice on Buffalo Coulee or to the rink down by George Hardy's;
- of warm barns with horses well fed and bedded down with clean straw;
- sitting in a warm room listening to Foster Hewitt and "he shoots, he scores", or to Lux Radio Theatre or Fibber McGee and Molly;
- or reading stories from the Saturday Evening Post such as Botts and the Caterpillar company;
- or building a two-foot model of a Spitfire from balsa wood or building something from a plan in the Country Guide or Popular Mechanics;
- or tucked into bed reading John's series of booklets on electrical theory and equipment that he had obtained from his Diesel Engineering Course;
- or going for a ride in the two-horse cutter that John and Harley had built. It was a super streamlined model

with a windshield in the front and a little wood stove that kept one warm (I think the main reason that it was built was to take them to the country dances!);

The fact of the matter is that most kids are oblivious to the cold of winter; if it's cold enough to hurt then you would do something about it, otherwise winter did not register as something to be concerned about.

Bad Boys! I suppose nearly everyone has a skeleton or two in their closet. I'm no exception for Robin and I got caught smoking at a very tender age. It really wasn't our fault; they shouldn't tempt kids with candy and cigarettes sitting in farm buildings unattended for a day or two! To start at the beginning, we usually had a district picnic and sports day in those years and Dad having a truck and generally involved in community activities always looked after bringing the ice cream and chocolate bars, gum, cigarettes, cigars, etc. After the picnic was over, they sometimes ended up being stored at our place before being returned to the store. As I mentioned, the temptation was too much, so Robin and I snuck a package of cigarettes (and I believe cigars) and headed out behind some buildings to get with it! Either that day or the next day, we got caught by one of my older brothers or sisters. We were scared and embarrassed and there was only one thing to do and that was jump on our trusty horses and run away - forever - never to return. Well, we travelled all of a mile before we stopped to contemplate the pros and cons for four or five hours, then we reconsidered and rode dolefully back to face the music. I've always remembered and respected Dad on that occasion, for he said very little, was not angry, and there were no spankings. He merely gave us a long look as we tried to force down some supper. We both got the message!!

Camp Lake and a Man Called Richards: A pleasant way to spend a week for a few summers was to go to Camp Lake about twelve miles west of our home. It was organized by the Church for children in the Wainwright-Irma area. There were the usual camp games, swimming, a bit of boating, etc. but what I remember most was Reverend Richards from Wainwright. He was a kindly person at Camp, but my memory of him stems from the pictures of camp he sent to me along with a very thoughtful note that I know influenced me in later years.



Dave Barss and his Farm-All tractor.



The Albert Farm Team! Standing: Helen Currie, Ron Currie, Ada Currie, Iva Currie, ?, Robin Johnson, Mr. Griffith. In front: Lloyd Johnson, Don Ramsay, Keith Currie, and Dave Barss.

SCHOOL DAYS AND OTHER THINGS

The First Day - I can still remember the first day of school when sister Frances, other older neighbor children and perhaps my mother walked leisurely the mile to school. There was a certain air of excitement and anticipation mixed with fear on that day. Miss Gertrude Smith was my first teacher and I believe some of the fear was imparted by the older children, for she was known for strictness and discipline. However, I do not remember any difficulties with Gertrude or any other teacher for that matter. The school then was the long white one. All I can remember are the typical smells of chalk dust, scribblers, pencils and crayons; the excitement of those early Christmas concerts with Santa appearing; and at Halloween dunking for apples in a tub of water in the open room on the east side of the school.

After Gertrude - Anne and then Oliver Griffiths became my teachers. They both were super teachers and I was fortunate to have them until the end of Grade IX. This was still the era of the country school where there might be three or four or conceivably up to nine grades taught in one room. In retrospect, it has always impressed me on how well it functioned. One can visualize the distractions for a class that is supposed to be studying or working on assignments when another class is being taught. However, I don't recall any problems.

"The Great Sword Fight": It was decided to build a new school at Albert and this gave rise to the great sword fight. At that time, it was common to finish the inside of rooms with plaster. One remembers that thin two inch wooden slats were used in preparation for plastering. Therefore, there was an abundant supply of slats stacked in the school in preparation for construction. However, these slats made ideal swords and it was not long before a contest had been dreamed up as to who could break the other person's sword in a sword fight. I'm not sure how many slats we had managed to demolish before being spotted by Mr. Griffiths. There were words and a little extra school for everyone after that event!

What a "Farm" Team: The words "Farm Team" probably originated from the Albert District school softball team! We were a motley group as the picture shows. I think part of our success was due to the fact that

we underwhelmed our opposition! Before a game they would look at the rag-tag bunch, nod approvingly at how easy it would be to beat us. However, the reverse was the case and we walked off with one victory after another. Our secret weapon was Lloyd Johnston, our pitcher, who developed good speed and control in his grade IX year and we had a few good hitters. We played in Irma, Wainwright and Mannville and we never lost a game.

Irma High School: Just about missed high school. Lloyd Johnston and I thought we could take high school through correspondence courses. However, these were World War II years and we were needed for the stooking and then the threshing crews to complete the harvest. I think it was about mid-October before I opened the first correspondence course - and thought to myself - no way! Fortunately, Lloyd's father and mother had similar thoughts, so convinced Mom and Dad and myself that we should go into Irma for High School.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter became our home away from home for the next few years. I know Lloyd and I both appreciated their putting up with us. As a sideline, Mr. Carter maintained bees for awhile and was responsible for my entry into the beekeeping business for two or three years. Irma High was another good period in my life; Mr. Gunn and Mr. Reeds were very thoughtful and competent teachers; we had good hockey and baseball teams; our student council was active; I was able to work part-time at Elfords and Co-op and so learn a bit about the stores; and we had an interesting group of students. I had a great interest in radios at that time and recollect being helped along greatly by Bert Wells who was a teacher and then later had a radio and car repair shop.

A TURN IN THE ROAD - UNIVERSITY

It was Mr. Gunn who suggested that I should consider University if I was interested. So, having an interest in electricity, I registered in Electrical Engineering and was accepted. The year 1947 - represents my last real contact with Irma and Albert Districts and thus a major turn in the road for me.

For some reason that I have not yet determined, I changed my registration to Geology from Engineering on opening day at University. I had some vague idea about travelling and thought Geology more appropriate. Regardless, I did receive a B.Sc. degree in Geology in 1951 from the University of Alberta.

The modern phase of the Oil Industry was ushered in by the Leduc discovery in 1947. As geologists are involved in the search for oil and gas, it followed that there were opportunities to work for oil and gas companies upon graduation. So in 1951 I came to Calgary to work. Except for occasional short-term postings, field surveys and extended business trips, I have been in Calgary ever since. I have worked for different companies over the years. In 1980 I decided to start a new company. It has been a challenge but we are making progress.

My early years on the farm and subsequent years in the oil industry have given me a good perspective to view our Province, Alberta. While they have been and still are occasional conflicts between oil industry and farming, they have generally got on very well. Importantly, they

have provided great opportunities for individuals in the Province to grow and prosper.

FAMILY AND CALGARY

In 1954, Beulah May (Bunny) Sahl and I became married. Bunny came to Calgary from Saskatchewan after graduation as a Home Economist. We have four children, Richard, Russell, Alex and Peter. Richard graduated from the University of Calgary as a Geologist in 1982, is working in Calgary and in 1983 married Carol Nelson. Russell graduated as a Mechanical Engineer from Queen's University in 1983 and is working for Canadian Superior. Alex is in first year Medicine at the University of Alberta and Peter is in first year Forestry at the same University.

REMINISCENCES, PHILOSOPHIES AND THANK YOU'S

In closing, let me add a few meandering thoughts that came about through writing this contribution to the District History.

Depression and Poverty: Am I wrong in thinking that there was a richness of life in the midst of the Depression? It seems there was more visiting and socializing, more card parties, dances and sports days and more goodwill between neighbors - or is it the romantic musings of someone not exposed to the harshness and reality of being nearly broke? As I mentioned earlier, as children we had lots to eat, clothes and houses were warm, and the depression meant nothing to us. Perhaps, it's "relative poverty". That is, how come the person next door is living like a king and I'm not? Can't help but thinking that "relative poverty" analysis of the poverty hypes a lot of us up into thinking how poor we are when in fact we might be getting a lot of satisfaction from what we are doing.

Change: My father in his lifetime, broke sod in the country that the Indians had roamed only a few short years before. From oxen, to horses, to tractors, trucks, combines, to watching men land on the moon on a television set - in one lifetime - staggering!

The Farm, Small Town and Thank You: One is the product of heredity and his environment - particularly, his environment of his early years. I feel comfortable and very thankful of the surroundings I grew up in. So thank you -

- to my family (Mom and Dad, brothers and sisters);
- to my childhood friends - Robin Johnson, Don Ramsay, Lloyd Johnston, Keith and Ronald Currie for the fun and some hair-raising experiences.
- to my teachers - Gertrude Matthews (Smith), Anne and Oliver Griffiths, Donald Gunn and I.S. Reeds - in giving me the opportunity to learn.
- to those who kept the idea of a District History alive and to those who provided the 'spark' to see it completed.

Bunny Barss, daughter of a Saskatchewan pioneer family and married to David Barss formerly of Irma, has written a cookbook titled *Come 'n Get It*. It starts before 1900 and follows the tradition of ranch cooking right up

to the '80's. Her cookbooks are filled with photographs of early years.

JOHN BARSS SR.

John Barss was born and raised in the Canso area of Nova Scotia. He had a small farm where they raised a few cows and hogs, but most of his life he spent as a fisherman on the sea.

John was married to Sara Morris and they had three boys, Hal, Fred and Layton. John lost his wife shortly after Layton was born, so pretty well raised the boys on his own.

Fred came west on a harvest excursion in 1904. He then came to what is now Orbindale district and took up a homestead. Apparently the letter Fred wrote home gave Hal and Layton the idea they wanted to come west, so John decided to sell what he couldn't get on the rail car and come west. They left Canso in the summer of 1906.

John brought enough lumber to build a house which still stands on the N.W. 34-47-9-W4th. He pretty well brought everything he needed to start homesteading, plus oxen, cows and hogs. They did not get their house finished in 1906 as winter set in early. I guess it was the worst winter as snow piled up to the eaves. They spent their first winter with Art Sprouls, who lived nearer to the Buffalo Coulee.

The brush was not very big when they came to this district. They hauled logs from Innisfree Lake to make a log granary and frame for a sod barn dug into a hill. He was very handy in woodwork, made most of his own furniture. He made me a dog sleigh which I used to take to school. He used hard wood instead of steel for shoeing and wooden pegs and glue, not a nail in it. He also made a cutter for his horse the same way. He would go out to the bush and find a tree with the proper bend and saw the runner out by hand.

He was known for his good buggy horse. It was the talk of the district when there was a downpour, he would pass all the cars on the way home. His land is still farmed by the family.



Powder horn and clock are both approximately one hundred and fifty years old. Clock was owned by Great-Grandpa Barss.

Harley Barss can remember his grandfather chewing tobacco, then putting it up on the windowsill to dry. After properly dried he would smoke it in his pipe. (Talk about conservation!)

John always had a flock of colorful chickens. In winter he would boil up wheat and potatoes to feed them and always had plenty of eggs.



Display in David Barss' rumpus room of old-time artifacts. The bits were used for repairing and making boats, wooden pegs were used, no nails. The gun is about one hundred years old and the ox yoke was used by Grandpa Barss.

JOHN F. BARSS FAMILY SE 46-47-9

John was the eldest son of Mary and Layton Barss. He was born on the farm and grew up in the district and went to the Albert School.

He helped with the farming and became a good farmer. John curled with Edgar Jones and Ivan Hardy.

In 1947 he married Doris Agnes Knowles. They bought the Gerald Currie quarter of land SE 46-47-9. On this quarter of land they set up housekeeping and lived there for twenty years. They raised five daughters who were all born in Mannville Hospital. John also joined the Elks in 1947. On April 20, 1962 John and Doris became members of the Irma United Church.

In 1967 he sold out and went into business with Haakon and Dale Larson known as JD Equipment in Wainwright. That year we moved to Wainwright with our family. After many years he sold out his share in the business.

John still liked farming so much he went out and helped Art Leighton and worked for him. He worked for Art until he took sick.

Our daughters are Gloria, Mrs. Doug Sharkey; Beverly, Mrs. Don Potkins; Kathy, Mrs. Gary Phillips; Patricia and Vicky Barss.

John passed away on March 8, 1983.

A woman should marry an older man for as her beauty fades so does his eyesight.



John Barss family and two grandchildren. Doris, Pat, Bev, Gloria, Kathy and John, Shauna, Vicki, Kevin.

LAYTON BARSS FAMILY

Layt Barss came to the Albert district from Canso, Nova Scotia in 1906 at the age of fifteen years. When he was old enough he homesteaded the N.E. 2-48-9-W4 where Jimmy Barss lives. In 1915 he married Mary Pyle and to this union were born five children John, Harley, Kathleen, Frances and David. The children attended Albert school and Frances and David took their high school in Irma.

Layt was a good horseman and did lots of riding for cattle on the open range for the early settlers. Ted Victory and Layt were riding partners. George Ambler and Layt altered colts for the settlers. He dug a well by hand and was fortunate to hit a spring of very good water. People came from all over to get water as it was better than from a slough.

To supplement his income he'd start threshing at Hardisty in early fall and thresh through to Vermilion - first stook threshing and then stack threshing. Later he bought an Advance Rumley tractor and used it on a wooden threshing separator.

One time Layt's father John Barss Sr., bought him a little Indian pony, Floss. Later it was badly cut by barbed wire so was not able to be ridden. They then used it for a brood mare and raised many good work horses from her.

Layt was the road boss for many years when roads were built with horses. He was also a school trustee for years. Layt enjoyed sports. In 1934 he helped make a skating rink on a slough. In 1935 he helped make the rink at Hardys'.

In the early times Layt hauled the mail to the country post office Zoldovara, where Alfred Fleming lives today, and to the post office at Stanton Coultman's. Layt was one of the earliest truckers in the district.

My life in the Albert District by Mary Elizabeth Pyle - 1956.

On July 27th, 1896 Mary Pyle was born in Hensall, Ontario. I lived there and went to school until August, 1910.

The spring of 1910 my father came to Edmonton to find work. On the train out west he met Mr. Jack Rae who was also coming to Edmonton. As Mr. Rae was coming into this part of the country to find land, my

father asked him to pick out a homestead for him. Mr. Rae homesteaded by proxy S.E. 2-48-9-W4th.

My father went back to Ontario for the winter. In the spring of 1910 he sold our home and headed back to Edmonton. My brother, Fred, came out with a load of household effects and lumber to build a house. With the help of neighbors the frame of the house was up when my mother, brother and I arrived in August.

We came out on the "Harvest Excursion". When we came to Irma there was only a boxcar for a station. Fred met us with a lumber wagon and a team of oxen. It was fourteen miles to our homestead over winding, prairie trails.

Mr. and Mrs. Rae, who had come out in the spring, were at our place to greet us and made us our first cup of tea on the homestead. Our early neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Rae and two boys; Mr. Herb Campbell; Mr. and Mrs. Art Sproule, George and Lew Hardy; Mr. and Mrs. George Ambler; Bill and Fred Matthews; Mr. and Mrs.



Mary and Layton Barss with John, Harley and Kathleen.

Cail; Mr. John Barss and sons Hal and Layton. Later in the fall Mr. and Mrs. Fleming and small son came as well as Mr. Winters.

The first year our mail came from Mannville. Mr. Coulman of Orbindale was the mailman. We had to go six miles to get it. Then the route was changed over to Irma with Mr. Fleming as mailman and remained thus until a rural route from Irma was formed.

In 1911 the Albert school was built about one-half mile from our place. It was named after early settlers. In the early days our entertainment was box socials and dances. Mr. Reeves of Mannville held church services during the summer.

On our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary the neighbors gave us a surprise party and presented us with a gift of silverware.

Our son John farmed in the district for awhile. He married Doris Knowles and they had five children, Gloria, Beverly, Patricia, Kathy and Vicky. John and Doris moved to Wainwright where he was in the John Deere business. John passed away in 1983.

Harley married Marney Kennedy and still farms in the Albert district. Story elsewhere.

Kathleen married Percy Miller and they farmed for

awhile before moving to Wainwright. They had three children, Maurice, Esther and Kenneth. Percy passed away in 1982. Kathleen lives in Red Deer.

Frances never married. She lives in Calgary where she is a secretary.

David lives in Calgary. He is a geologist. They have four sons, Richard, Russell, Alex and Peter.

Mrs. Barss was a member of the Albert W.I. for years and was president for one year. She passed away in 1959.

In 1960 Layt moved to Irma, but he decided he was still a farmer at heart so moved back to the Percy Miller place in Albert district. Later he moved to Vermilion. The last three years of his life he spent in an Auxiliary hospital where he passed away in 1976.



May, 1920 - Leighton and Mary Barss with baby, Kathleen, Harley and John.

CHARLIE BASKA FAMILY

Charlie Frank Baska was born in the Irma district, the only son of the late Frank and Irene Baska. Charlie's father worked for Mr. Fred Hill, who owned a homestead south of Irma, way back in the 1920's and early 1930's.

The Frank Baska family later moved to the Ross farm (now presently owned by Mr. Martin Creasy). It was here in the Strawberry Plains district that Charlie first started school. However, in the summer of 1940, the Frank Baska family moved to the Silver Lane district, where Frank purchased the farm.

Charlie, now accompanied by his two sisters, Helen and Anne, continued with his schooling in the Silver Lane and Fullview schools, later, going by school van to the Irma school. After completing his education in Irma, Charlie, having an interest in farming, started work in partnership on his father's farm.

In 1969 Charlie purchased the family farm and on August 5th, 1970, he was united in marriage to Mary Caulfield, originally from Ireland. Mary is the eldest

North American Life Assurance Company

First Premium \$ 67.10

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

Sum Insured \$ 2,000.00

Received this

day of 19

Sixty-seven

10/100

Dollars

for the first Premium on Policy No. 1008 on the life of Layton H. Parss
subject to all the provisions of the said Policy and those on the back hereof hereby incorporated herein.

THE POLICY IS NOT VALID OR OPERATIVE UNLESS THIS RECEIPT IS COUNTERSIGNED BY THE
AGENT OF THE COMPANY ON THE ACTUAL DATE OF PAYMENT WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THE ISSUE OF
THE POLICY, THE LIFE INSURED BEING THEN AS STATED IN THE APPLICATION FOR THE POLICY.

Agent at

Moose Jaw

Special attention is called to the back of this Receipt

L. Goldman

Managing Director

The door of hospitality is always open to the residents
of the Irma district at the Charlie Baska Home, 5509 -
45th Street, Provost, Alberta.



Charlie and Mary Baska, Patrick and Kevin.

daughter of Mrs. Margaret Caulfield and the late Patrick Caulfield, Poolboy, Ballinasloe, County Galway West, Republic of Ireland. Mary received her elementary and college education in a girls' separate school by the Sisters of Mercy. To this marriage two sons were born, Patrick Charles and Kevin Anthony.

Charlie continued farming until May 20th, 1976, when he sold his farm to Mr. Darryl Hinkey. He then moved with his wife and family to Provost where he is presently employed by the town of Provost. His sons attend the Saint Thomas Aquinas School, in Provost, Patrick in Junior High grade seven and Kevin in grade three. Patrick won the Provincial Education award in Alberta this year, 1983.



Shown above is Provincial Education Week Winner Patrick Baska, an 11 year old, grade 6 student at STA. His project showed how Provost developed in size, population, technology and development from the pioneer days of 1900 to 1983. Isabel Stang is his grade 6 teacher. The sponsor, Alberta Education Committees, paid for Patrick's trip to Edmonton on May 5 and 6 where he visited the Alberta Legislature Building and received his award. Patrick has many good friends and neighbours around the Irma District. He was born and lived there for four years before moving to Provost with his parents Charlie and Mary Baska. Patrick's aunt is Mrs. Helen Bell of Irma.

FRANK BASKA FAMILY

by Helen Bell

My parents, Frank Baska and Irene Salamon, were both born in Harskut, Hungary, which is now known as Lipovnik, Czechoslovakia. After they completed school which in those times was grade six, most were on their own to support themselves. Dad worked at various jobs including a flour mill, on farms and as a herdsman.

Dad was the youngest in a family of four. His mother passed away when he was two. His father took a stroke a few years later and was confined to bed for several years before passing. Dad had been preceded to the Irma district by his brother John, so Dad immigrated in 1926. Mom followed in 1928 and they were married in the Wainwright Roman Catholic Church in August. Mom was the oldest child. She had three sisters and three brothers. A brother, John, lives in Hardisty, Alberta.

Dad worked on the railway and for Mr. Frank Weise, as well as on various farms. My brother Charlie and I (Helen) were born on a farm near Mr. Fred Hill whom Dad had worked for in 1935. We moved from N.W. 3-45-8 to the N.E. 35-44-9 to a farm rented from Frank Kapasi. That year the crops were hailed out completely.

In 1936 my sister Ann was born. Charlie started school and his first teacher was Miss Dorcas Magrath. The following year in 1940 Dad purchased the farm in section 17-44-9 from Mr. Ted Berreth, located exactly half way between Irma and Hardisty, in the Silver Lane school district. I started school that year and Miss Ethel Ingram was my first teacher, and later Ann's was Miss Marguerite Miller. Four years later the school was closed and we attended Fullview school four and a half miles away. We had to learn to drive a team of horses first of all. Dad purchased a Bennett buggy with a cab which had a small heater in it. It was previously owned by a mail carrier. This was how we commuted back and forth to school. We were also in charge of taking the drinking water in the cream can. Three years later in 1947, that school was also closed. The pupils from Fullview went to Hardisty and we nine, from Silver Lane, were bussed to Irma school. Our van was a car.

We enjoyed life on the farm. We had horses to ride and drive, but always had chores to do. We didn't go to town much - almost never in the winter time, but we did attend church at Hardisty as much as possible in the summer. It wasn't until about 1948 Dad bought a car. He had a tractor first.

Some of the families that were our neighbors were: Jim Bells, Roy Bronsons, Tom Bronsons, Berquists, Ress Darkes, Jim Harveys, Peter Harveys, Roscoe Hinkeys, J. Horns, Steve Pasztors, Brooks, Alex Szokes, George Kings, Hugh Speckman, George Clapp, Charlie Millers and Bill Tomlinson.

After my brother, Charlie, finished school he farmed with Dad. Our parents retired in 1970 and Charlie continued to farm until 1976, but due to ill health had to sell. Mary and Charlie and their boys, Patrick and Kevin, moved to Provost where Charlie works for the town. Marg and Darrell Hinkey bought the farm and built a new house one-half mile west of the buildings. The old house and buildings have been sold and it is now an



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Baska, August 20th, 1973.

acreage.

Ann moved to Edmonton after she completed high school in Irma, to a job with business training included. She met and married Albin Juhasz in 1957. He has his own business "Albins Concrete Ltd." After about ten years in Edmonton they moved to an acreage near Fort Saskatchewan, where they had a house built. They have four children. John works in the Edmonton post office, Leslie attends University, Albin Jr. and Mary Ann attend high school.

I, Helen, have two children, David and Laura. A daughter-in-law, Sandra Lee and a son-in-law, Dennis Bird, and four grandchildren, Arlué, Shawn, Kristina and Jeffrey. My husband Robert M. Bell passed away in 1979. I still reside on the farm.

After Charlie was married our parents moved to Hardisty in 1970. They have both passed away. Mom in June, 1979 and Dad in February, 1980.

SOPHIA BATEMAN

by Maude (Smallwood) Mills

Sophia Bateman was born in 1852 and died in 1935.

Known to us as Aunt Shi-yi, she came west in 1909 with Alexander McKay's daughter Mildred Crocker and lived on the McKay farm for the rest of her life, except for several winters that she spent at the Smallwood farm with Robert and Margaret. Sophia broke her hip when she was a teenager and it was never repaired, so she was always a cripple and the only way she could move about was by pushing a chair in front of her. In spite of her handicap, she hand-sewed all her clothes and was a great cook.

Old age pension became available when Sophia was seventy years old, but she was not allowed, by family members, to receive it as it seemed like charity.

Not many people knew Sophia as she never left the farm, but she loved to have visitors. She did a lot of reading and studying the almanac so she was always ready to tell when the moon was right for planting etc.

The only people who never fail are those who never tried.

WES BAUER FAMILY

by Christina (Beckett) Bauer

I was born in Mannville on March 13th, 1947, and raised along with my brother, Erroyl, and sister, Tannis, on the farm with my parents, Ambrose and Hazel Beckett. Our farm was located twelve miles northeast of Kinsella on N.W. 48-10-4-W4th. I started school by correspondence at home, then went to Echo until the end of grade three. Mrs. Ruth Landers gave me a very good start at school those years. There were ten students at Echo the last year. We Beckett children had two and one-half miles to walk to school. Mom often took us part way by team in the morning in the winter. We had to walk around the lake in summer, but in winter we crossed Echo Lake as it was a little shorter. For a time we students did the janitor work at the school. I had to dust desks - we each got one dollar a month. I rode the school bus to Albert School (still walking over a mile to the bus) for grades four to nine. One of my favorite teachers was Mrs. Jean Larson. I took my high school in Irma, riding the bus as many as seventy-six miles a day. I'll never forget the wonderful teacher and principal that Mr. Donald Gunn was. I graduated in 1964 and got work as a Ward Aide in Viking Hospital for three years.

An event I'll always remember is the tornado on July 14th, 1953, when we lost our home and many belongings. My parents, with the help of family and friends, erected another house on the same site. We were able to move in that fall. In the meantime, we lived in a one room shack, that had been built in a hurry to house a destitute family.

Back in about 1958 when things were pretty tough, Mr. John Diefenbaker, our Prime Minister, issued each family with a case of luncheon meat. Every time we used a can of it, my brother always said, "Oh, Diefenbaker meat!" But we really did appreciate Mr. Diefenbaker's thoughtfulness.

I can remember the days of picking rocks and roots, canning, picking berries (I still do this), churning butter, etc. etc. We made butter by shaking the cream in a two quart sealer. When we got a gallon size churn with a handle that turned wooden paddles inside the jar, that was really something. Between turning the cream separator and butter churn, we got lots of arm exercise.

The first summer we were on this farm we kids helped Mom pack water for drinking and cooking by pail from the neighbors, Frank Brown, a third of a mile away. We had eight fences to go through, round trip, because of course we took the shortest route.

Wes Bauer was born in Mannville on January 10th, 1944. He was raised mainly on the farm south of Viking. He attended school at Viking, then worked on oil rigs for a couple of years, until he decided to take a mechanics course at N.A.I.T. He apprenticed at Golka Garage in Viking. Wes is very handy with his hands - he can fix or build almost anything.

In 1966, I married Wes. We lived in Viking until he completed his automotive mechanics course. In 1968, we moved out to my parents farm, and farmed with them until we were able to purchase our own farm the former Glenn Hollar place S.W. 35-47-10-W4th, in 1973. We have always raised hogs and at the present time are



Wes Bauer family.

beginning to convert over to a pure York line of hogs.

We have two daughters, Karen and Sharon, both attending school in Viking. Karen took her first four grades in Irma School.

Wes and I are members of the Rodino Country Club, with Wes being President at this time, trying to keep a small community centre alive and active.

I started losing my eyesight at the age of thirty, due to having had diabetes since I was two years old. Despite my failing eyesight, I still take an active part in our hog farming operation, as do our girls.

We have been farming now for fifteen years and have built at least one new building each year. We built a new home and moved in 1976.

There is much hard work, many long hours, many frustrations, and for us, a long way to town, but regardless of the drawbacks, the farm is the only place I'll ever really be happy. I love the freedom, animals, being self employed and having a community spirit.

BAYNE FAMILY

Among the early settlers in Strawberry Plains was a Bayne family who came in 1906. They homesteaded NW 6-45-8 and lived there for a number of years. The parents passed away and are buried on this land. When the Bayne family left here Orville Chase bought the land, but in 1945 Harry Long purchased it and farms it today. Harry marked the graves and farms around them.

In the 1950's two Bayne boys came from the States and asked Fred Hill to show them where they had lived. When Harry purchased the land a caveat was still on the title for lumber purchased to build the original house.

Swap Session

It's too bad we can't exchange problems.

It would be so beneficial and wise . . .

After all, it's a simple matter

To solve the other guy's.

— Ruth

NORMAN BEATTY

Mr. and Mrs. Beatty settled in the early times on N 1/2 31-44-8. Norman came in with money and bought one of the first cars in the district. They had one son Stewart.

Mrs. Beatty was a high-class lady who believed Stewart or herself should not do such menial tasks as milking cows or other such chores. Needless to say this family did not live on the homestead too long. When they left Orville Chase bought the land and in 1942 Harry Long purchased it and owns it today.

BECKETT FAMILIES

by Hazel Miskew (Beckett)

The Hudson's Bay settlers came from England in May, 1929. Lawrence and Mary Beckett, with three children, came across on the Andania, one of the ships sunk during the Second World War.

They arrived by train at Kinsella, where they were met by some cowboys and assistants. Their luggage and household effects were loaded on wagons, which were drawn by wild horses, hardly broke enough to be safe. Before the family got into the wagons, the team bolted from fright. The runaway caused considerable damage to the carefully packed English possessions. Many valuables were broken beyond recovery.

The Great Depression hit before the Beckett's could get established. One of their horses was balky, the cow never had a calf and the few laying hens were so old they didn't lay many eggs. These were all chattels given to them by the Hudson's Bay Land Company. Therefore, the family had a very difficult existence.

Both Rosamund and Ambrose quit school early to work out and bring their parents a few dollars in wages. Henry, being much younger, did not realize the sad state of affairs.

War broke out, so Ambrose had to join up when he was twenty-one. His father was very ill, so Ambrose had a spring and fall 'Leave' to do the cropping. During his four years of military service, most of his duty was as a Gunner in the Royal Canadian Artillery. He spent three years on secret maneuvers at Suffield Experimental Station.

He met Hazel Thayer of Medicine Hat, whom he married in 1944. Soon after, they came back to Rodino to operate his parents' farm. They had two children, Erroyl and Christina, born on the old Hudson's Bay farm.

Mother Mary Beckett succumbed to cancer and passed away in 1946, followed by father Lawrence Beckett, two years later from heart failure.

The year 1948 was a year without rain, following a winter of very deep snow and shortage of fodder, so there was no crop and little feed. Ambrose sold out and went to Medicine Hat for two years. Tannis was born during this time.

In 1951 he bought the land known as "The Rathz Place", in the Echo district, where he and his family operated a mixed farm. Later, they went into a large poultry operation. In 1953 a hurricane blew through the area, demolishing all the buildings of A. Beckett, G. Hollar and H. Johnston, as well as doing extensive

damage to Rodino Hall and many barns in the area.

With stout hearts and the 'will' to recover, the Becketts carried on, and years later they built the only Cage-System egg production unit that was ever in the district. Under the name of Rodino Poultry Farm, they produced and graded eggs of top quality. They sold graded eggs for twenty years to many stores and private homes in Edmonton, Viking, Mannville, (and some other towns for a short period). At one time they graded and packed eggs for Canada Packers, this product was distributed throughout the North West Territories.

Now, Ambrose had his heart's desire, a modern farm set-up, but he died suddenly, in December, 1973, before the completion of his new venture. Hazel carried on for eight months, and then sold the property to Mike Mackowosky, who has not only carried on with the egg production, but has increased his buildings and flock. Hazel moved to Viking, where she remarried three years later, to Marshall Miskew.

Both Ambrose and Hazel were active in the Anglican Church and all community affairs. Hazel was the 'Echo-Rodino' news correspondent for the Viking News and Mannville Mirror for twenty years. When the children got to school age, Hazel taught the eldest two children at home for one and two-thirds years. When Eastertime came, Echo school was open, and they went there (including Tannis) till the school closed down. Then they went to Albert School, till it closed down. Vance Shippey was the school bus driver for ten years and he made the remark that "he could set his watch by the Beckett children", as they were always on time at the pick-up corner one and one-third miles from home.

Christina graduated from Irma High School, while Erroyl and Tannis did not complete their schooling there. Christina married Wesley Bauer and they have a large hog operation in the home district, where they have carried on the Beckett tradition of being community minded people. They have two daughters, Karen, who started school in Irma, and Sharon, who started school at the time they changed to the Viking School.

Erroyl worked at home for a few years, then with his uncle Henry Beckett, for ten years drilling water wells. Although he spent some time on his father's farm, he was more inclined to like the life of a well-driller, so he moved to Wetaskiwin, where he purchased his own drilling outfit, and built a large ultra-modern home. He drills water wells in summer, and drills test holes and coring during the winter months, for Oil Companies. He married Diane Strynadka, and they have two daughters, Brenda and Cheryl, who are attending schools in Wetaskiwin.

Tannis married Dwight Roland and moved to a farm near Minburn, where she enjoys helping her husband and children run a mixed enterprise. Tannis is handy at carpentry and operating machinery, and has worked in the Innisfree Bank of Commerce for eleven years. At present she is the head accountant there. Her daughter, Paula, is still in school, but her son, Garth, graduated from Mannville High School in 1982. He has been working with an Assessor and Appraiser during summer months, and a carpenter during the winter. Since he excelled at Industrial Arts in High School, he leaned towards further education in that field.



Ambrose Beckett family.

HENRY BECKETT

by Hazel Miskew

Henry took all his education at Rodino School. He joined the Viking Air Cadets during the Second World War.

Henry had the roaming fever that took him to Manitoba, southern Alberta and many far-northern points with drilling rigs, until he met and married Beth Larcombe and settled in Mannville. After drilling water wells in a large area around Mannville, beginning as a partner with Sherman Prosser, they ran out of business. He then, formed another partnership with James Brady, and they moved out to Williams Lake, B.C.

Their first years they had their 'ups and downs', but finally they made good, and each of them has built a lovely modern home, and enjoy an extended well-drilling business. Henry has a lavish cabin at Quesnell Lake for his summertime enjoyment.

Henry and Beth raised one daughter, Rhonda, who is now a Registered Nurse in the Williams Lake Hospital.

Henry has always been a great story-teller, and relates many interesting events of his adventurous career. He has been Parade Marshall several times at the famous Williams Lake stampedes.

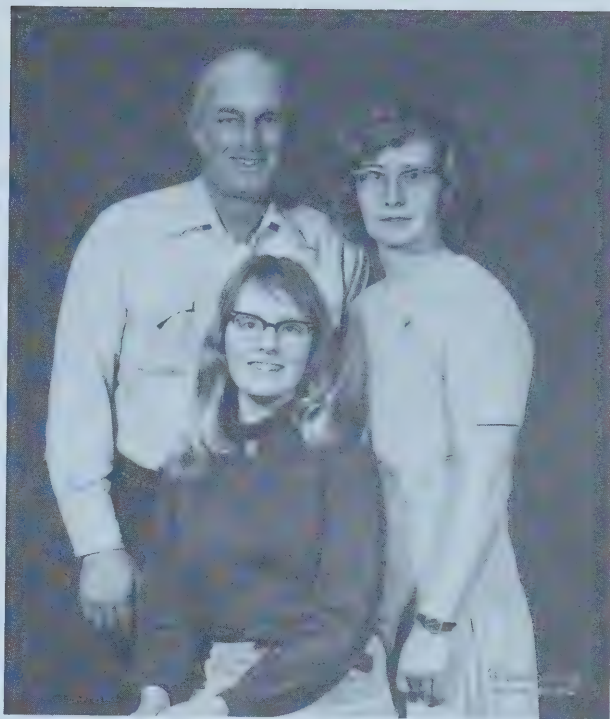
LAWRENCE AND MARY BECKETT

by Rosamund Vandervaat

Lawrence and Mary Beckett came from Scarborough, Yorkshire, England, in May of 1929, with their three children - Rosamund, Ambrose and Henry. They settled on a Hudson's Bay quarter of Sec. 8-48-10-W4 in the Rodino District. Other new immigrants on this same section, were - A. Winfield, J. Laidler and Freeman.

Lawrence Beckett was born in Leeds, Mary born in Midhope, Rosie also born in Midhope, while the boys were born in Scarborough, all in Yorkshire. They operated a large boardinghouse in Scarborough on the North-East coast of England. This is a seaside resort, where many folks spend their holidays.

The Hudson's Bay Settlement Scheme was searching out new farmers, so the Becketts thought they could



Henry, Beth and Rhonda Beckett.

make a better future for their children in Canada. They arrived in Kinsella in May of 1929. Lawrence drew an unlucky team of horses, who ran away from the railway station. Some of the dishes and prized possessions were broken in the runaway. Mother and the children were driven out to their new home by a Hudson's Bay representative, while Dad came with the few household possessions and the team and wagon. I can remember mother just sitting down and crying when she saw what we had come to. Dad followed a relay of white rags tied to fence posts, as his guide to find the new farm.

I was 11 years old when we arrived, with Ambrose being 9 and the baby, Henry, was 1 1/2 years old.

Mother's home-sickness did not last long, as we were soon 'in the harness'. We had hard work and hardships aplenty, none of us old enough to go out to work. Dad took sick with bronchial asthma, later developing into emphysema. He found farming a real burden on his health. Mother was a genius at sewing and cooking and jam making, and she grew large gardens and picked wild fruit.

The three of us children attended Rodino School. Ambrose and I had one teacher in Canada, Miss Jean Kennedy. I was forced to give up schooling at 14, due to dad's ill health. I worked on the farm, doing endless chores and field work. I did a lot of babysitting when time permitted, especially in the winter.

I remember that first Christmas in Alberta. We were in a school concert. I didn't have a thing to wear, as I had outgrown all the clothes we had brought from England. No money to buy new ones. The night before the concert, Mrs. Rayment brought us a box of used clothing from the Church. There was a blue dress in the box which fit me. I



Lawrence and Mary Beckett.

was so happy that I cried. I vowed, then, that I would always work for the church, if it could make people as happy as I was that night.

I married Henry Vandervaate in 1938, the boy across the fence. We lived on a farm 1 1/2 miles northeast of my parents. We were never blessed with any children of our own, so we were pleased to be able to choose and adopt two kiddies. We got Reginald at the age of 5 days, and Constance at 23 days old.

Reggie was a talented little boy in music and hunting. He sang in the Search for Talent two years, and the announcer named him 'Reggie the Weaseller'! From school he got a start in the Co-op Store in Barrhead, later working in the Tomboy Store in Edmonton, then he was promoted to manager of several Co-op Stores in Northern Alberta, with Valleyview being his place of employment at this time.

Connie loved horses, and she too was talented in music. Both children took music lessons from Mrs. Olga Simmons in Kinsella. Mrs. Genon Astley gave Connie her beginner's lessons.

Ambrose quit school early, too, to help dad on the farm, and work at the neighbours to earn money, which he always brought home to dad. He joined the Army during World War 2, and spent 4 years' duty in Canada. While he was at Suffield, he met and married Hazel Thayer of Medicine Hat in 1944. They came back to the homestead, and helped mother and dad, raising three children of their own.

Henry was not a farmer, he went out to work on Drilling Rigs, which took him to many areas of southern

Canada and the North West Territories. In his travels, he met Beth Larcombe of Mannville, whom he married in 1960. They have one daughter, Rhonda. They live at Williams Lake, B.C. and Henry owns his own Drilling rigs.

I enjoyed our little Anglican Church at Rodino, which led to the beginning of our W.A. in 1938. I'll never forget the fun we had practicing for a play called 'Black Cats'. The money we made was donated to the Anglican Church.

Mother passed away with cancer in 1946, followed by dad in 1948, of heart failure.

My whole life I wanted to care for children. I did lots of babysitting. After Henry's mother died, and we had spent 21 years on our farm, in 1959, we decided we had enough of roughing it. We sold out and moved to Barrhead. Henry took any job he could get, and I took a government job. It was a 'Receiving Home' for wards of the Government. Reggie took his job in the store, and Connie transferred as ward aide from Viking Hospital to Barrhead. I also took in Day-Care children for many years. I always think that life began for me, when we moved to Barrhead, because now I was doing the work I always had wanted to do.

I will never regret our years in the Rodino District. Life was hard but good. We learned to be Canadians and enjoyed the way of life in a great community.

I am pleased to be asked to write in the Irma History Book.



Henry and Rose Vandervaate, Henry and Beth Beckett, Ambrose and Hazel Beckett.

MR. AND MRS. HAROLD BEER

My husband Harold was born May 1st, 1903, in a small hamlet by the name of Chittlehamholt, in Devonshire, England. He was one of a family of seven children, four boys and three girls. Only one member of this family remains in Seaton, Devon.

Harold and his brother Ernest came to Canada on the Mount Laurier in 1924, through the auspices of a C.P.R.

scheme to supply farm labor for the West. When the ship docked in Quebec, the boys from England and others who had come to Canada on the same C.P.R. scheme were dispersed to Western Canada as farm laborers.

Harold and his brother were sent to the John Mallough Ranch at Chauvin. There was one other lad who was included with them for the same ranch, by the name of Ernie Betteridge. Harold and Ernest knew something about agriculture, but Ernie was from London. He didn't know anything about horses, harness etc. This lack of knowledge was the cause of much laughter amongst the Canadian crew.

As for myself, I was born Mary Elizabeth Perreault (Goupil) January 23rd, 1902 at Villeneuve, west of Edmonton.

My grandfather, Micheal Calliou was Chief of the Calliou Reservation at Villeneuve.

My grandfather had a large family. He had twelve children by his first wife, then twelve more by my own grandmother. All the boys from this family were very musical. One of my aunts had a beautiful operatic voice. The nuns at the convent, where she too was raised, gave her very good vocal training.

Aunt married Count Albert De Pierpont of Belgium. They moved to Brittany, France, which was later enemy occupied territory till the end of World War II.

I was raised by the Grey Nuns at the Youville Convent, now a Senior Citizen's Home in St. Albert. I was placed there at the age of two, because of the Typhoid Epidemic which hit that part of the country in 1904.

There were no immunization programs in those days. People died off like flies. My grandfather Adolphin Perreault's family were almost entirely wiped out. He and seven sons, including my father Joseph Perreault, passed away within days of each other.

My mother who was very ill with the fever was not expected to live. The nuns took me, age 2, and a younger brother, just a few months old, named Daniel, whom the nuns nicknamed Zozo, which stayed with him for a long while. There were two other boys who were already at the convent, Bill and Archie.

Luckily, Mother recovered. There was no home for us. There was no choice but to leave us with the nuns. She had to work for a living.

I remained at the convent till I was fourteen years of age. I can truly say that we had an excellent education. We had some perfectionist teachers. One Irish teacher by the name of Sister Deegan, who expected perfection in everything. We did learn to read and spell. We also learned much about our own Canadian History.

I can't remember whether we were returned to mother and the grandparents for a while, but I do remember speaking only Cree and French. I had to learn to speak English before starting school. I still retain some French, but the Cree is a thing of the past. I wish I could speak it again.

It was during my early years at school, that I can remember my most embarrassing moment. It was at the time of Father Lacombe and Father Tessier's Diamond Jubilee, 75 years of priesthood for both of them. I was about six at the time. The nuns had planned a very special concert to celebrate the Jubilee. They had made a

beautiful crown of flowers and the bounties of the earth, dipped in gold paint. It was built on a wire frame and was quite heavy.

After the last drill by the little girls, dressed in tiers of bright yellow crepe paper with golden paper chains was completed, they stood at attention while the crown was presented to Father Lacombe. He walked up the steps to the stage, turned to face the audience, then looked around for a place to set the crown on. Seeing none, he turned and walked toward me as I stood at the end of the line. He placed the crown very gently on my head.

Instead of being pleased with the honor, I put my arm up to my face and wailed like a banshee. *Oh Boy*, the nuns did not let me forget that incident for a long time to come. I disgraced them thoroughly.

One of the pleasant things I can remember as children playing hide and seek, is a little log shack which was the first church in the vicinity. This same small building has been moved to its present location and has been covered with an outer shell which is big enough to allow two hallways, one on each side, and a large space at the back, which is all full of Indian artifacts of canoes, leather and beadwork, etc. This is a museum which is still open to the public.

My mother remarried while I was still at the convent. She married a Charles Goupil of Athabasca. From this union were two children, a girl Laura, and a boy Joe. Laura married Ralph Green, there were no children. Ralph passed away five years ago.

Joe married Betty Copeland, from this union were three boys, Bud, Gene and Bill. All are married and have children of their own. Joe has since passed away.

After leaving home at sixteen, I worked in Edmonton for eleven years. I got tired of city work, so applied for a job as cook on the Mallough Ranch at Chauvin. I cooked for nine men that year. This is where I met the man who became my husband and life partner.

I returned to Edmonton after the harvest. A good friend suggested that I attend Bible School for one semester, so I attended the Canadian Nazarene Bible College for the winter, in Red Deer.

I returned to Edmonton in the spring, where I met Harold again and we decided to be married. We were married March 26th, 1930. That was the earliest spring that I have ever known. It was 70 above that day. This was Wednesday and we expected to have a few days together before he returned to work in Camrose and I went back to my job till fall. Short honeymoon. Harold's boss wired on Friday to let him know that they were starting on the land immediately.

Through the summer months Harold travelled around the Province looking for a place to buy. He bought the former Steven's place south of Jarrow, being rented that year by Arne Norandahl, N.E. and N.W. 32-45-10-W4th.

After the harvest at Camrose, Harold bought a new wagon and team in Edmonton. He loaded what furniture he could get on the wagon and headed on the road to Jarrow. There were no highways or gravelled roads, let alone pavement in those days. By the time he followed all the twists and turns in the trail, it was a 135 mile trip which took him better than two days to make. I arrived a few days later by train, November 5th, 1930. That was

the beginning of our life together which was to last for forty-two years.

We raised three children, Harold John (Bud), Herbert James (Jim), and Laura Elizabeth (Betty Lou). They attended school in Jarrow. Among their teachers were Olive Sather, John Ronjom, Mrs. Doris Likness, Mrs. Ella McRoberts and Genon Theroux Astley. They rode their bikes three and one half miles to town in the summertime, and walked or sometimes rode in a small homemade cutter on cold days across the lake in the winter.

The opportunity came for us to move closer to town, and for this I was truly thankful. The children were becoming increasingly reluctant to go to school on account of the neighbor's cattle, which roamed the open roads, especially into our lane well away from the main road. There was a vicious bull in the herd that the children feared.

Harold bought former H.B.C. land, which was owned by Clifford Meakins, just west of the Jarrow elevators. The children had only one mile to ride to school, and no stock to contend with.

It wasn't too long before each went their separate ways. Bud was in the employ of Gallelli Sand and Gravel Construction of Calgary, road building etc. which later became Con-Mac, for twenty-two years.

Jimmie worked with Bud for several years, then worked with Tollstrup's of Lethbridge at the same kind of work, later returning to Con-Mac's, till he returned home to take over the farm.

Bud married Opal Lundberg of Wainwright June 20th, 1957. From this union are four children, two boys Dwayne and Dwight. Two girls Karen Anne and Vicki Noelle, so named by the others because she was born shortly before Christmas.

Dwayne is married to Cindy Gilbert of Calgary.

Dwight is married to Theresa Fultz also of Calgary.

Karen Anne is being married to John Howitt of Calgary some time in November, 1982.

Vicki is nine, and will be in school for some time yet.

Jimmie did not marry.

Betty Lou married Paul Lundberg, Opal's brother in 1956. From this union are two children, one boy Eugene, one girl Tammy, who is Mrs. Murray Dods, in Calgary.

There are three great-grandchildren from this union, Tonya, Lindsay and Robert. Eugene and Valerie have one little girl Aimee LeeAnne, another great-grandchild. Betty's first husband Paul, died in a propane suffocation accident in 1965.

Betty married Henning Andersen of Innisfail in 1967. They have one son Ronnie, born in 1969.

In the fall of 1971 Harold became ill. After the harvest we paid our usual visit to the children in Red Deer and Calgary before the winter set in. A check with the doctor proved to be more serious than expected. An operation ensued. Chemotherapy followed. The treatment was too much for him. Harold passed away April 1st, 1972. Bud made arrangements to have the farm rented to two close neighbors for three years.

I returned to Calgary to live for eight years. I now reside at Chacutenah Manor in Irma.

When the farm lease ended, Jim came home to take

over the farm. He bought the farm in 1980. Jim was caretaker of the Irma Recreation Arena for three winters. He was a conscientious worker, with a smile for everyone. Jim passed away suddenly April 8th, 1982. He is missed by family and friends.



James Bell family, Robert, James, Rod, Jim, Tillie, Irving, Doris and Doug.

JIM AND TILLIE BELL FAMILY

James A. Bell was born September 12th, 1890 at Dornat, Dalton, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. He had two sisters, Janet and Elizabeth (Kerr) who also immigrated to Alberta. Their mother passed away when he was five years old.

When he left school he went to learn the cheese and butter making business, milking cows and getting paid forty dollars for a whole year with room and board included. In 1911 he came to Canada where he worked on a large ranch near Regina. He was always interested in sports and shortly after he volunteered to enter a plowing match. It wasn't known that he had quite a bit of walking plow experience in Scotland. He was finally accepted and won the championship and a silver cup, and again in 1912.

He moved to Alberta and in 1915 filed on a homestead. The winters he worked in the coal mines at Drumheller and in the Lougheed butcher shop. He also was employed as a hired man on farms.

Tillie Nokleby was born in 1904 in North Dakota and with her parents, Ole and Lottie Nokleby and other relatives came to Hardisty, Alberta, in the spring. She was the eldest in a family of seven. The family moved to Fergus Falls, Minnesota when she was about school age, and later to Montana. In 1916 they came back to south of Irma in the Strawberry Plains district. About 1920 they were on the move again to the State of Washington where the relatives still are. Tillie was employed in the district and met Jimmie in 1919.

On January 27th, 1921 they were married in the United Church manse at Hardisty by Rev. Goddard. They made their home on the homestead. Later they, with their three little boys, moved to their home located N.W. 21-44-9-W4th.

Jimmie's father, William Irving Bell also emigrated from Scotland in 1926 and made his home with the family and was enjoyed by them. He passed away in 1939.

Their eldest son, Irving and his wife Doreen (Powell) of Rosyth, live on the home place south of Irma. They raised a family of four. Garry was married to Meridell Helm, but he passed away in 1976. Darcy lives in Drumheller. Beverly and her husband, Dale Christensen and son live at Bruderheim. Valerie and her husband, Bradley Pierce, in Irma.

Robert also farmed south of Irma and he married Helen Baska. Their son David married Sandra Lee Jensen of Moosomin, Saskatchewan. He is a carpenter in Calgary and they have a daughter Arlue. Their daughter, Laura, is married to Dennis Bird of Viking, who is a building contractor. They have three children, Shawn, Kristine and Tiffney. Robert Bell passed away in 1979.

Doug married Olive McClements. They have three married children; Linda (Mrs. Richard Sorochak) of Vegreville; the twins, Janice (Mrs. Adrian Makowecki) of Whitecourt, and Laun and his wife, Colleen, of Viking. Doug and his wife Bessie live near Rimbey, Alberta on an acreage and manage Algar Agencies Ltd.

Doris is married to Robert Moulder and they farm in the Hazelwood school district by Hardisty. Three of their children, Eugene, Debra and Patti are married and all live in Edmonton. Gail and Denise are still at home. Doris and Robert have three grandchildren.

James married Muriel Holms of Fort St. John, B.C. and they had four children; Dwain, Doran, Teena (Mrs. Calvin Fuhrman) and Charlotte. James was employed by Plains Western Gas Co. for twenty-seven years. Later he was employed by Matador Engineering of Rocky Mountain House, where he suddenly passed away October 21st, 1983. They had seven grandchildren. Muriel resides at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

Roderick, the youngest of the family, is married to Doreen Galletly. They live near Sedgewick and he is employed by the county. They have three boys, Jerry, James and Jeffrey. James and Jeffrey are in school.



Robert Bell with daughter, Laura and son, David.

Tillie and Jimmie left the farm and in the fifties built a house and lived in Hardisty. Jimmie took the job of making the ice for the curling rink and in the summer still farmed some of his land. Rod got most of his schooling at Hardisty, but the family of three, moved back to the farm, built a new house and lived there a few years. Rod then attended the Irma school, going by bus. All the other children took their schooling at Silver Lane, going by cutter, buggy, horseback, bicycle or walking. There was a lot of hard work to be done on the farm and every member of the family had work to do. Tillie and Jim retired to Chilliwack, B.C. in December, 1963 and moved back to Hardisty in 1972 and still live in their own home. They have twenty-one grandchildren and twenty-one great-grandchildren.

ROBERT M. BELL FAMILY

Robert was born on his parents' homestead in the Irma district, one of a family of five boys and one girl, second eldest son of Tillie and Jimmie Bell. In 1926 they moved from the homestead to N.W. 21-44-9 which is now Irving and Doreen's home.

Robert attended school at Silver Lane and never missed a day of school in nine years. The teachers during this time were: Miss Lilly Sanders, Miss Myrtle Johnson, Mr. J. Horn, Miss Myrtle Burpee, Miss Lillian Burpee and Miss Ethel Ingram. When Robert finished school he worked on his father's farm. He enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in 1943 as L.A.C. He returned home in 1946 when he was discharged from the service.

He bought his farm, E. 1/2 28-44-9 which was formerly the Pete Harvey farm, through the Veteran's Land Act. In 1949 he moved to the farm one mile from his parents' place.

I, Helen Baska, was born at home southeast of Irma, where my parents, Frank and Irene Baska lived at the time. I have an older brother, Charlie, and a younger sister, Ann (Juhasz). I started school at Silver Lane. My first teacher was Miss Ethel Ingram, then Miss Marian Carrington and Miss Marguerite Miller.

We loved the farm, had horses to ride and drive, but always had chores to do. We didn't go to town often - almost never in the wintertime. It wasn't until 1948 that Dad bought a car.

In 1944 that school was closed, so we then went to Fullview school four and one-half miles away. The teachers were: Miss Nelson and Mrs. Alice Darkes. We drove a team and Bennett buggy with a cab, which was used most of the time winter and summer. Sometimes a one-horse buggy in the summertime was used.

In 1947, Fullview school was closed and we nine from Silver Lane were bussed to Irma school in a car. My teachers there were: Mr. Charlie Detro, Mr. H. Elford, Mr. Sam Gordon and Mr. Nick Bozak. After I finished school I worked in Hardisty a few months and on April 16th, 1951, Robert and I were married in the United Church.

Robert's first car was a 1928 Essex. Many years ago, when it was brand new, it was owned by his dad, and had probably several owners since then. Then he purchased



Laura Bell's wedding. Left to Right: David, Robert, Helen, Laura and Lee.

an old Buick, which was much better. Both those cars had been made into trucks. He always worked hard, clearing the land himself. He purchased more land from Dick Dawson, in 1963, and brushed that also. Robert was very good at fixing farm equipment, at welding and even making some parts and several gadgets, which some of us called his inventions. Almost all of them worked. One time he built a little tractor, used a little engine and a toy wagon. This David drove in the Irma Daze parade when he was four years old.

Our son, David, worked on our farm for a couple of years after completing Irma High School and got jobs in Edmonton for the winters. Later he moved to Calgary, where he met and married Sandra Lee Jensen of Moosomin, Saskatchewan, in July, 1978. Lee is an R.N. and was working in Calgary General hospital. David is a carpenter who does framing work. They have a daughter Arlué, (pronounced Ar loo ee), and they live in Calgary. David always had an interest in sports, like his Grandpa Bell.

David's cousins, Darcy and Garry, lived nearby and in the wintertime a slough would be cleared. They'd come over Sunday afternoons and hockey would be played, with Robert and at times Laura. Sometimes the neighbors' children, Bacons and Kings would join them, then they would usually skate.

Our daughter, Laura, married Dennis Bird of Viking in December, 1975, shortly after he completed high school. He took over his dad's business, J.D. Construction. Dennis is a building contractor and he built their own house on his farm near Viking. They have three children, Shawn, now in school, Kristina and Jeffrey.

I enjoy visiting with my children, grandchildren, relatives and friends. I continue to live on the farm, which is my home. Robert was killed in a farm accident in 1979.

W.A. BELTON FAMILY

by Hannah Oakes (Belton)

My folks, with their four children, Hannah, Elsie, Brenda and Bill, arrived in Kinsella along with Wilkinsons, on June 7th, 1929 from Yorkshire, England.

Eventually to be added to the family were Ron (Mac), Freda and Glen (Pete) all being born in Viking.

After loading the respective wagons with staples from Third and Ansell's Red & White store, they set out across country via Beschell's to their new homes two and a half miles west of Jarrow.

The Hudson's Bay Co. had built a barn and house besides digging a well. In the house we found a "home built" table, two chairs, one bed, along with several rolls of barbed wire.

Looking back we can enjoy the memories but there really wasn't anything funny in it for families who had known only soldiering and mining. I remember washing in the hand basin balanced on the front of the wagon one morning when a democrat arrived carrying the Rev. Tommy Teape (later Dean) and Mrs. Comley in her Girl Guide uniform. We kids were sure she just had to be a policeman of some kind so we hid in the barn.

They explained to Dad what the barbed wire was for and how to go about building a fence. The big problem was that the cow, previously purchased from George Mathews, was killed on the railroad before we got her home, which meant that I had to walk over there every day after school with the trusty lard pail for milk.

Of course it was too late to plant a crop that year so Dad worked for Tom Overbo, the Councillor and thanks to neighbors and friends like the Harold Whiddens we had vegetables.

Dad could never adjust to farm life so he went cooking in lumber camps which eventually led to him joining the R.C.M.P. and was stationed at Jasper.

When the war came along he left in the First Division in 1939 with the 92nd R.C.A. and was gone for about four years, at which time he was invalided home again but not for long, as he soon returned to the R.C.M.P. until an injury forced his retirement.



Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Belton taken about 1940.

At this time he took over the Jarrow Post Office from Hales Barton until Mac and Maryann took over, following their marriage in January, 1959.

Now Dad moved to Kinsella since natural gas had been installed, he said he thought he'd shovelled enough coal.

He took the job as janitor at Kinsella school where he stayed until illness forced his retirement in 1965. He passed away in Viking in February, 1967. Mom followed in November, 1973.

Families left are:

Hannah (Oakes)	- Lougheed
Elsie (Lebenki)	- Oakville, Ontario
Brenda (Ronjom)	- Irma
Bill	- Vermilion
Mac	- Wetaskiwin
Freda (Firkus)	- Irma
Pete	- Edmonton



Stanford Berg Family: Stan, Rodney, Nell, Brian, and Inez.

STANFORD BERG FAMILY

by Nellie (MacKay) Berg

Nellie (Ellen) MacKay, the third daughter of John and Jean MacKay, was born at Irma. She took her first eight years of school at Glenholm walking the two miles across country. She went to Strawberry Plains school for grade nine. Nell worked at the Irma Coffee Shop, run by Jerry and Maudie Hurst, then for a short time at St. Anne's Hospital in Hardisty.

In April, 1947, she married Stanford Berg of Gwynne, formerly of Provost. They farmed in the Gwynne district for thirty-four years. In October, 1981, they moved to Wetaskiwin, and rented out the farm. The Berg's have three children, Inez (Mrs. Ken Niles) lives in Wetaskiwin. She teaches school in Millet and Ken is a cabinetmaker. They have two children Steven and Linnea. Brian lives in Edmonton, and works at Alberta Hospital, and is also a professional photographer. His wife Lorraine is a schoolteacher. They have two sons Geoffrey, and Jonathon. Rodney and his wife Chris live in Wetaskiwin. He works in construction and Chris works for a Realty Company.

THE BERRETH FAMILY

by Ted Berreth

Frederick and Jacobina Berreth came to Canada from South Dakota to escape the hot dry summers and cold with bad blizzards in the winters. Three of their older boys had been to Canada and told their parents there was lots of water and grass. The boys had homesteaded fifteen miles north of Hardisty and built sod houses. To this my parents, sister, younger brother, Ruben and myself came. My parents homesteaded right away, and Ruben and I did so when we were old enough.

In April, 1908 we left Selby, North Dakota for Hardisty, Alberta. There had been a prairie fire through three days before we arrived so you can imagine what the place looked like. We brought our settler's effects by railroad, six cows, one bull, two mares and a saddle mare in foal as well as a line of machinery. Next day we hired a driver with a two seated buggy pulled by two mules, to look for a homestead. My folks found what they wanted, trees, water and grass. The next morning they went to Sedgewick by train and filed on S.E. 32-44-9-W4th.

I'm telling you Alberta was the place to live! In the spring after the prairie fire there were strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons, chokecherries, and pincherries to preserve. There were ducks, prairie chickens and geese by the thousands. They were yours for the taking.

My father was seventy years old when he came to Canada in 1908. He was also very crippled and he passed away in March, 1911.

Our first neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Foreman who were very good to my widowed mother and her two little boys. Other neighbors were the Mildons who had six boys and two girls. The men were carpenters and built the first school at Strawberry Plains. The first teacher was Miss Bare who married Guy Reed.

Jim McDonald and Frank Roe lived near us and they raised horses. I used to help them look after the horses. Charlie Miller had a big cattle ranch southwest of us. Every summer he would go to the homesteaders to see how many calves they were willing to pail feed. They were called "pail bunters". The homesteaders would get fifteen dollars for each calf he got back in the fall. That was good money for them.

At roundup time three of us young fellows would hold all the four-year-old steers the cowboys had separated from the different bunches. It was a hard job because they wanted to go back to their own herds, so we had to sleep on the range with them. As soon as it was daylight the cattle would get up and take off. I had the fastest horse, so I used to carry a stick to tap the lead steer on the side of the head to keep them running in circles. They would follow the leader until they got tired. This happened every morning until roundup was over. For this we got forty or fifty dollars which had to do us all winter. We thought we were rich!

War came and I joined the army in 1917, going overseas where I was stationed at Wendover, Buckinghamshire. It was here I met Nell Pedal, my future wife. I came home in September, 1919. Next spring Nell arrived in Wainwright on March 14th and we were married that same day during a raging blizzard.

Through the Soldier Settlement Board I bought my parents' homestead and my brother's quarter section where we stayed for six years. We then moved three miles south to a half section to grow grain. In a few years we owned eleven quarters and did well until the depression. The crops were good but the prices were low. In 1931 we cleared eleven dollars after everything was paid. The next year it was only nine.

We decided to leave the farm and move to Hardisty. My brother-in-law, Bill Pedal, has most of the farm now and raises cattle on it.

I became a grain buyer for United Grain Growers. In 1939 we moved to Irma where I had the U.G.G. elevator. While in Irma I was the first president of the curling club and Jack Fletcher was the vice-president. In June, 1940 we moved back to Hardisty. From 1942 to 1946 I bought grain in Innisfail. Because of ill health we moved to Hope, B.C. where we lived for six years. Our last move was to Chilliwack where, as old age pensioners, we expect to spend the rest of our lives.

On March 14th, 1980 we celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary with a host of relatives and friends.

We had three boys, Buster, Neil and Clifford.

Rube Berreth married Ena Nash and they had three children. Ena passed away in 1976. Rube lives in Red Deer.

Sarah Berreth married "Doc" Matheson. She resides in Hope, B.C.



Mrs. Margaret Pedel, George Pedel and Ted Berreth.



Nell Berreth, 1940.

OTTO BETHGE FAMILY

Otto Bethge was born September 29, 1891 in Madgeburg, Germany. He came to Irma to the Kasten farm around 1910 or 1911.

Katherine Heinz was born March 16, 1898, in Vienna, Austria. She came to Hay Lakes, Alberta, in 1900 and in 1918 to Irma to visit a sister. Here she met Otto and they were married on June 24, 1919. Ten children were born to this union. A daughter, Helen, passed away as a child in 1938 as a result of scarlet fever. She is buried at Irma. The children in order are Paul, Mildred, Clarence, Irwin, Fritz, Helen, Jack, Elsie, Erma and Ronald.

The older children went to school at Glenholm. Paul was the only one to go to Irma High School.

The Bethges farmed a half section of land seven miles southwest of Irma in the coulee for twenty-two years. The family moved to the Kasten farm during the war years. In 1949 they bought land one mile northeast of Amisk and still live in the Amisk area.

Otto passed away suddenly on March 13, 1974. Katherine still lives on the farm. Clarence and Ronald farm the land.



Irvin, Clarence, Paul, Fritz, Elsie, Erna, Mom, Dad, Mildren on June 24th, 1969.

Paul is married and farms four miles northeast of Amisk. They have no children. During the war Paul served four years in the army, three of these overseas.

Mildred married Herbert Redman of Hardisty. They have no children and are retired on their farm three miles west of Hardisty.

Clarence served for two years on Atlantic Patrol while in the navy. He is single and helps run the farm for his mother at Amisk.

Irwin is married with two children. He lives in Amisk and is employed by the M.D. of Provost.

Fritz is married, but has no family. He farms ten miles south of Amisk.

Jack is single and lives in Calgary where he drives a van for a furniture company.

Elsie is married and has two children. They live in Red

Deer where she is employed by Trans Alta Utilities.

Erma, who lives on a farm six miles north of Hughenden, is married with three children.

Ronald is single and lives on the farm with his mother. He farms with Clarence.

Taken from Irma Times March 20, 1936:

Mr. Otto Bethge informed us a few days ago that he has a Holstein milk cow that has produced milk continuously for nine years and four months without freshening. This cow was originally from the herd of the late W.H. King.



Roland, Sharon, Harry, Ken and Helen Bick.

ROLAND BICK

I was born at Jarrow the son of Margaret and Harry Bick. In the early nineteen hundreds my father emigrated from England as a very young man. He arrived in eastern Canada and worked his way westward until he settled on a homestead located approximately five miles north of Jarrow. He joined the army during World War I and served in the Canadian Infantry overseas. At the end of World War I he returned to Jarrow where he married my mother, Margaret Heron. They settled on a new farm located two miles north of Jarrow. It was at this farm that I was born.

I attended public school in Jarrow and went on to high school, first in Kinsella and then in Irma. I graduated from Irma High School. I lost my mother when I was a school student. At a later date my father joined the Army once again and served in World War II. He did not return to Jarrow at the end of the war but located in Medicine Hat where he spent the rest of his years.

After graduation from high school I enlisted in the R.C.A.F. I trained in Canada and England and flew on operations from a bomber base in England with the 426, "Thunderbird" squadron. My crew and I were shot down over Germany in 1944. We were all taken prisoners of war.

I was first interned at Stalagluft 3. As a matter of interest this was the prison from which a mass escape was attempted by allied prisoners of war. It was upon this incident that the movie, "The Great Escape" was based.



Margaret Bick and Roland.

On New Years, 1945, the prisoners in Stalagluft 3 were marched westward in the face of the advancing Russian armies. After a period of time on the road which some have labelled a death march I was re-interned at Stalag 3A. This camp was located a few kilometers from Berlin. Stalag 3A was liberated by the Russian Army on its final thrust to Berlin.

After World War II I attended the University of Alberta and graduated with a BSc in mining engineering. Since that time I have been actively engaged in the mining industry. I have worked for periods of time in Alberta, Manitoba, British Columbia, Idaho, California and Nevada. As another matter of interest I spent some seven years at Snow Lake, Manitoba. This is a mining region located east of Flin Flon. Winter temperatures quite often dipped to -40°F for prolonged periods of time. Since that time I have spent a few years in California's Death Valley where temperatures of 125°F above zero were not uncommon.

At the present time my wife, Oleta, and I live in Reno, Nevada. I have two grown children and two small grandchildren. My daughter and her husband own and operate an automobile dealership in Nevada. My son is a practicing attorney in Reno.

BARNEY AND HALTON BJERKHOLT

from memory of N. Fluevag

Barney Bjerkhol came and took a homestead on N.W. 36-44-10 southwest of Irma in 1909. His brother Halton, from Seattle, Washington came to live with him in 1912. He filed on N.W. 30-44-9, a homestead close by. A couple years later Halton bought the Roy Davies farm where he then lived.

About 1919 Barney married Olivia, an Icelandic girl from Winnipeg. They had one daughter named Peggy.

In 1920 Barney built a lovely new home, which burnt down in the spring of 1924. He and his family then lived with Halton. That fall they all moved out to Vancouver.

Due to poor health caused by asthma, Barney in 1912, hired Dan Larson, a young Norwegian bachelor to work for him, which he continued to do as long as he lived there.



Halton Bjerkholt with his horse.

After the fire Dan fixed up the old house and lived in it. When the Bjerkholts moved away, he farmed the land until it was sold.

CHARLIE (COLLIE) BJORK

Charles Anton Bjork was born in Sweden in 1880 and came to Canada in 1902. After working for some time on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in Northern Ontario, he came to the Albert district in 1909. He homesteaded the S.W. 34-47-9-W4th. Today the land is owned by Ronnie Larson. Later he spent several summers working on the G.T. railway west of Edson, Alberta.

In July, 1913, Collie married Miss Bertha Larson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. "Cap" Larson. They had one son Vernon. Bertha passed away in 1921. Mr. Bjork farmed for many years in the Albert district. He was well known and respected in the community.

On July 7th, 1950, while working for the N.W.T. Ltd. near Kinsella, Mr. Bjork suffered an acute heart attack and passed away immediately.



Collie and Bertha Bjork.

MR. AND MRS. HERBERT BLACK

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Black came to Irma in 1940. Mr. Black took over the management of the Imperial Lumber Co.

They took up residence in the house that was the former home of the H.W. Love family. As there was no hotel in Irma at that time, Mr. and Mrs. Black operated a "rooming house" for the Commercial Travellers, and for about two years other travellers in this large house. They later bought a home which was one of the first two houses built in Irma. (This home is now the home of Bud and Kitty McNeil).

Janie, as Mrs. Black was known to all her friends, became a member of the United Church Choir, the W.A., the local branch of the Red Cross and helped with the various functions of these groups. Her cheerful smile, sunny disposition and generous assistance in every worthwhile community cause endeared her to all.

Both Janie and Herb were ardent curlers.

After Janie's passing in 1960, Herb continued at the lumberyard for a few years. He sold the home finally to Wm. (Billy) Stewart and took up residence in the Battle River Lodge in Wainwright.

Herb, as well as Janie, supported the Irma Community in every worthwhile cause. He always had a cheerful word for everyone. While at the Lodge he continued to be helpful and supportive in any way he could.

Mr. Black passed away on December 7th, 1975 at Wainwright hospital at the age of 88 years.

Herb and Janie had one daughter, Betty, who was a nurse. She trained in Edmonton and then went east where she married and had one daughter. Betty was an airline hostess. She passed away in 1962.



Herb and Janie Black.

PETE BLAINE FAMILY

by Nerine Hunter

Pete and Goldia and their four boys Ralph, Eugene, Gail and Bob came from Seattle, Washington in 1921. They lived on the N.W. 18-48-9-W4 which was the Nicholson place. I don't know how long they lived there, then they moved to the S.W. 14-47-10-W4 where Harriet Faulkner now lives.



Gail, Eugene, Ralph, Bob Blaine with their mother Goldia.

The boys went to school at Rodino and Willow View. Bob went to Lynx when Willow View was closed.

In 1930 Pete passed away.

The four boys served in the Second World War. Ralph and Gail in the army and Eugene and Bob in the navy. A very good friend of these boys, Cliff Badmington, served in the war with them.

Goldia stayed on the farm for a while and then she went to look after her mother (Jennie Shippy) who lived on the N.E. 18-48-9-W4 until her passing.

In 1937 Goldia married Howard Herrick and they lived where Phil Holt now lives S.W. 12-48-10-W4. From there they moved to Minburn and lived until Howard's passing. Goldia then went to Seattle to be close to Gail. She had to be put in a home in Vancouver where she passed away. She is buried in the cemetery at Irma.

Eugene passed away at Renton, Washington in November, 1965. Ralph passed away at Vernon, B.C. in 1981. Gail and Bob both still reside in California. This has been written with the best of my knowledge.

MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR BLAKELY

Arthur Blakely was born in Owen Sound, Ontario, in 1889. When he was eighteen years old he traveled by train to Alberta and claimed a homestead in the Vermilion district in 1909. He urged his brother, Jack, to come and homestead next to him. They built a sod cabin and bached together for several years, living on lots of baking powder biscuits (as told in stories by the brothers).

Christina (Tina) Blakely was born in East Templeton, Quebec, about eight miles from Ottawa. Her mother was left a widow with five children and she also went west and homesteaded in the Vermilion district, with her son to help her.

Jack married Katie, Tina's sister, and moved to Vancouver Island, B.C.

Art and Tina were married and settled in Irma in 1917. Tina's mother was remarried to Kenneth McLeod, and also moved to Irma about the same time, where "Mac" was the blacksmith for many years. Mazel, the youngest sister, attended Normal School and later married Walter Frickelton, who was the druggist in Irma.

Art and Tina's first son, Gordon, was driven to Sunny Brae school by horse and buggy, until Strawberry Plains school was built and where son George, and daughters, Vera and Elsie attended. The original house was added to and new barns were built around 1926.

Art Blakely raised registered Hereford cattle on valley land along the Battle River, and also built a log house, barns and corral there. The Blakelys, Frickeltons and McLeods had many happy picnics, with swimming (or wading) in the Battle River.

A wind charger was installed at their house around 1942 and the wonder of electricity (in twenty-five watt bulbs) was produced in house and barns.

Art was a member of the Irma Council, the United Church Board, the School Board and the Masonic Lodge. Tina belonged to the Ladies' Aid and the Red Cross. Several church suppers were held at the Blakely farm.

In 1945 the farm was sold to Mr. Peter Funk and the family, except Gordon, moved to Victoria, B.C., where they could visit Jack and Katie and family.

Gordon worked shortly in Leduc oil fields, north on the McKenzie River and then mostly in Calgary as a carpenter. George, now retired, worked as a construction estimator. Vera is a teacher and Elsie is a nurse.



Art and Tina Blakely and Vera.

BLANCHARD FAMILY

Earl Blanchard was born October 3, 1910 on his father's homestead at Prongua, Saskatchewan. He attended Battle River School three miles from their farm. He married Berenece Prongua from the same community.

Berenece was born at Unity, Saskatchewan on September 2, 1918. At four years of age she went to live with her aunt and uncle Harold and Nora Olmstead at Prongua, Saskatchewan when her mother contacted tuberculosis and had to stay in the T.B. Sanitorium at Qu'appelle, Saskatchewan.

For a number of years Earl and Berenece lived in



Bill, Dean, Earl, Berenece, Yvonne and Clark.

Southern Alberta and Vancouver, B.C. where Earl worked as a mechanic. In the spring of 1943 they moved with their son Bill to the Bob Dawson farm south of Irma and rented the farm until after the harvest. They moved to the Frank Withall farm and rented it until 1945 when they moved into Irma.

Earl worked at John Ostad's Garage and they lived in Irma until the Spring of 1946 when they moved to the Haine's farm fourteen miles north. Their crops were froze during July of 1946 and Earl began trucking locally and into Edmonton with a truck he purchased from Charlie Glover. They sold the trucking business to Glen Hockett in 1951 and purchased the Guy Strand farm north of Irma. Earl also custom swathed, combined and hauled grain until their son Bill bought the truck in 1961 and continued with the trucking business.

They sold their farm to Jack Stapleton in 1966 and built a new house in Irma. Earl worked as a carpenter in Irma and Wainwright until they sold their house to the Wainwright School Division in 1971 and moved to Kamloops, B.C. Earl continued to work as a carpenter until 1981 when they semi-retired to Battleford, Saskatchewan near where both Earl and Berenece had grown up.

Earl and Berenece have four children. Bill was born in Vancouver, B.C. on April 18, 1942 and now lives and works in Vancouver. Yvonne was born in Wainwright on October 10, 1945 and now lives at Wainwright with her husband Allen Ford and their two children Tim and Melissa. Clark was born in Mannville on February 15, 1947 and now lives at Whonnock, B.C. with his wife Terry and their three children, Douglas, Alexis and Angie. Clark operates a drywall business throughout the lower Fraser Valley. Dean was born in Mannville on February 26, 1957 and now lives at Kamloops, B.C. where he works at the Afton Mines.

The Blanchard family have many happy memories of the years they lived in Irma and area and return frequently to visit friends here.

THE BOVENCAMP STORY

by Phyllis Lundle (Bovencamp)

In the spring of 1920, my grandfather Barnhard James Bovencamp came to the Jarrow-Metropolitan district to

locate land. That summer his family, except for the oldest son, Ernest, also came to this district. My two aunts, May and Iva with their parents, came by train to Kinsella. My dad, Jack, arrived later with a boxcar load of livestock and machinery. He was nearly eighteen then.

They moved into the former Bert Yakes house which was not entirely finished. My grandfather had purchased the half section with house from Bert. The first summer they started clearing the land by cutting wood for the house, and more land clearing was done in the same manner in following years. I still remember as a child, those twenty huge loads of wood awaiting the neighbors who came to participate in wood sawing day every spring. For the youngsters it was like another Christmas or school picnic, with all the lovely baking that grandma would do to help feed the crew of eight or nine men plus their wives who came to visit that day with always a few underschool aged children as well.

Dad's brother, Ernest who had remained on the farm in Idaho, married Anna Johnson; they had four children. His sisters both married local farmers. Iva married Erland Lindquist and they had four daughters. Iva passed away in 1942. May married Charles Albrecht the same year, 1921 and they had three daughters. May died in 1973.

My mother and father, Dolly (nee Groner) and Jack were married in 1922. They had seven children, two of which died in infancy. Of the five, Robert the eldest was born in 1929, followed by Phyllis, Wilma, Francis and Viola.

Mom tells of the time when Robert was a baby and she was on her way to Barkers with the team and sleigh. She stopped to return a basket she had borrowed from Mrs. Owen. As she stepped out of the sleigh, one horse turning, saw the basket and the team took off down the road. Thinking she might head them off, and knowing that they could make only a left turn at the corner, Mom struck out across the field, but in early spring the snow was still knee-deep in places. Meanwhile the horses ran more than a mile and a half, made two left turns a mile apart and stopped exactly in front of the gate at Barkers where she had intended going. As soon as the men who were there sawing wood, noticed the sleigh without a driver, they rescued baby Robert and backtracked for



Jack and Dolly Bovencamp, 60th Wedding Anniversary, Oct. 1952.

Mom who had given up the field and had reached the road again, frantic and perilously exhausted.

Robert married Shirley Erickson in 1951 and they are living on the Groner homestead where they have raised their family of five children. Bruce, married to Holly Horricks, is living in Loughheed. He is manager of the U.F.A. Bulk gas station there. Diane is employed with Mid-Continental Supplies in Edmonton, as is Brian, who married Bernice Jeffries. They have two sons; Michael and Mathew. Brian is district supervisor for 7-11 Stores. Gary and Steven are at home.

I married Ole Lundle in 1954. He was farming south of Kinsella. We moved a one-room house to the S.W. 30-45-11 and began our own pioneering, building straw barns, corrals, picking rocks and roots and midwifing cows and sows. Later the house was added to little by little, sometimes with the help of generous neighbors and sometimes late at night by the light of the gas lamp after the chores were finished. Murray was born in 1958 and when he was two years old we got our well. What a treat to have lovely soft water in abundance after hauling drinking water in cream cans and wash water from sloughs or from rain water. We didn't anticipate then that we would ever have the electricity and water pressure that came later (nor did we anticipate that after we have moved to Sedgewick for a year where Ole does carpentering, that the house with all those precious memories of the farm we had struggled to improve, would all burn to ashes!) Sandra was born the summer of 1960, Chris two and a half years later and Craig two years after him.

As I write this, Murray is employed with Omni Drilling and soon to be married. Sandra married Robert Doyle. They are living in Leduc where Rob is a field engineer for Albert Perforators Inc. They have two sons, Brandon and Owen. Chris and Craig are at home.

Wilma married Ken Richardson from Vancouver. They have four children; Debra, Bonnie, Keith and Beth. Wilma and Ken have always lived in B.C. and the past five years in Campbell River. They have three grandsons.

My brother, Francis, we almost gave up concerning matrimony, but Francis is full of surprises, and in 1977 he married Lorna Tweddle who had one daughter, Vera, and in 1978 they had a son, Wayne. They live on the Bovencamp farm, where our dad first came to in a boxcar from Idaho.

Viola, the youngest, married Jim Lukion of Edmonton. They live in Sherwood Park and have two sons. Francis just finished school and Dwayne is in High School.

John and Dolly celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in October 1982.

Dad now resides in the Auxilliary Hospital in Killiam.

Mom passed away November 1982 at the age of seventy-seven years.

BILL BOYD (JUNIOR) FAMILY

I came to Jarrow May 2nd, 1929 with my wife Elizabeth "Lizzy" as she was known. We first moved into a garage for the first year or two. We then bought a



Bill, Lizzy and Harold Boyd in 1930.

house in Kinsella and moved it to Jarrow, with the help of Bill Kerns, Harry Meakins and Roy Granger and their horses and wagons, all donating their help.

At that time Jarrow was quite a nice little town. It consisted of two general stores, two garages, a livery barn, lumberyard, pool hall, Chinese restaurant, post office, three elevators, blacksmith shop, Church and public school. I had one of the two stores. The high school was above it. I helped build the community hall, and also helped Harry Meakins build the army memorial, made of stones and cement.

Times were very hard at that time and I don't know how I would have managed if Percy Jones wouldn't have come to my rescue and helped me out, I think I would have given up. He was a wonderful advisor and family friend.

About thirty families lived in town then. It was quite a lively little town. We had a baseball diamond, a yearly picnic on June 3rd, dances, plays and other entertainment.

Another job I fell heir to was driving the sick people to Viking to the hospital, as cars were very scarce then. I made it on time all but once when the mother only made it as far as our place and where Dr. Greenburg delivered the baby. Mother and baby stayed until they were ready to go home.

My wife, Lizzy, passed away in 1935, leaving me with three small children, Harold, Doreen and Arthur who was only a few months old. Mrs. Mathews helped me care for the kids and take care of the house for some time. Then Janet McNab, a cousin of mine, came to my rescue and took over the kids and housekeeping. She loved the



The Boyds, Bill, Janet, Harold, Doreen and Arthur.

kids and they loved her. She was a very capable person. I married her a few years later and we had a very good life together. We had lots of friends in and around Jarrow and Kinsella. In the summer we spent many Sundays picnicing and fishing at Blackburn Lake with the Lindbergs and Grangers. Our families were all around the same ages. There was always the guitar and accordion music, which we all enjoyed.

One of our best friends was Hans Jamison. He and his mother and dad lived one-half mile out of town. He joined the army in 1940 and was one of the ones not to come back. His mother and dad were almost like my parents. They have been gone a long time now. Roland Bick stayed with us and went to school after his mother passed away.

In 1946 we sold the store in Jarrow and moved to Calgary in order to give the kids a better education. They didn't like city living so we moved back to the old farm north of Kinsella in 1948.

A cyclone came along in 1953 and blew the buildings down, all but the house and the bank barn. It was a pretty sad looking place and sort of took a lot of courage to rebuild and clean up after it. Again Percy Jones and a few others came to our rescue.

We sold the farm in 1957 and moved to Irma for one and one-half years. I worked in the meat market. In 1959 we moved to Wainwright where I worked at the army camp until I retired. Janet passed away in 1980 after a lengthy illness.

Doreen trained for a nurse and later married Ted Hill. Harold worked for Imperial Oil in Edmonton, and later married Alison Christenson from Kinsella, and live in Edmonton. Arthur drove trucks and was later killed in a truck-train accident in Parkland in 1959. My dad and mother sold their butcher shop in Holden and moved to Calgary, where they lived until their deaths in 1962 and 1963.

I married Ruth Granger from Killam. Grangers were neighbors of ours in Jarrow in the hungry thirties.

In 1930 a fire started in "Bartons" Oil and lumberyard in Jarrow. It also burned the butcher shop and pool hall, and upstairs where the Masonic Lodge hall was. My store would have also burned, had it not been for the farmers

coming to my rescue with the bucket brigade.

The Lodge was then held above my store. Owing to non-payment of dues in the hungry thirties, it was disbanded. Four of us joined the Irma Lodge. They were Viggo Lindberg, Harry Meakins, Ole Christenson and myself.

The store was broken into twice in the 40's. It was robbed of the money in the safe. I was paymaster for the two elevators in Jarrow.



Bill Boyd working on road, August, 1924.

WILLIAM BOYD SR. AND FAMILY

by Wm.(Bill) Boyd

William Boyd Sr. and his family, wife Elizabeth, son William (Bill) and daughter Margaret, came to Canada from Kilsyth, Scotland, in 1907. They came to make their home at, or near High River, Alberta. The first year he dug coal from the banks of the Highwood River. He sold coal to the settlers in order to make a living for his family. The next year he filed on a homestead at Gladys Ridge. It was four miles to school. The first year the children walked, but by the next year they had a pony.

Dad drove a mail route with horses to DeWinton three times a week. After he proved up on his homestead, he sold it and as he was a butcher by trade, bought a butcher shop in Blackie, where we made our home until the war started. He then sold the shop and joined the army in 1914. Mother and we kids moved into Calgary. After World War I ended, he returned and went farming. He bought a Soldier's Settlement Board place three and one half miles north of Kinsella in 1919 - W. 1/2 section 14-47-14-W4th. The Glovers stayed on the farm that winter to look after it and the livestock.

On April 10th, 1920, Dad and I came to the farm. We came in a boxcar loaded with furniture, machinery, chickens and all our belongings. Mother and Margaret came later. Mother was a midwife and helped Dr. Chalmers deliver many new babies to the district. In 1922, Margaret went to Edmonton to train for a nurse.

By 1925 Dad had enough of farming and they went to Holden to run a butcher shop. I stayed at Kinsella and worked for some of the farmers around there. Later I worked for Pete Wagness in the general store in town.

After four years I went to Winnipeg for one year. I came back and bought a general store in Jarrow. I married Elizabeth Keiting. We had three lovely children, Harold, Doreen and Arthur.

Dad sold out in Holden and moved back to Calgary where they lived until their deaths in 1962 and 1963.



Wm. Boyd, Sr., Wm. Boyd, Jr., Harold, Doreen and Arthur.

JOHN BRADY FAMILY

by Genon Astley

John Brady was born August 5th, 1887 into a family of thirteen children. His parents moved from Green Bay, Wisconsin to Leeds, North Dakota. His dad, James Terry Brady, was born May 31st, 1856 and died March 16th, 1934. His mother, Flora Etta, was born July 25th, 1861 and died December 4th, 1947.

The Bradys came to Canada around 1903, settling between Alliance and Sedgewick. They had a lot of stock so when more settlers arrived they moved to Mannville, then south of Minburn into the Willow View district where there was more grazing land. John settled on the S.E. 24-48-10-W4th. He married Eileen Sarasin who came from a large family in the Viking area.

They raised five sons and one daughter, Ellen, James, Vernon, Edwin, Lloyd and Stanley. All attended Willow View School totalling one-half the school attendance for most of the years.

John raised horses for many years, sometimes having as many as one hundred head. These were broken to lead and sold to buyers in many parts of the country. With the disappearance of open range and the coming of tractors, horses were no longer needed so he went into cattle, hogs, and grain farming.

John Brady was an excellent stockman and took great pride in his stock. He was a good neighbor, always

willing to lend a helping hand.

Ellen married Morris McInroy and they have three sons. They live in Port Alberni, B.C.

James married Thelma Arnold and they have three daughters. They live in Williams Lake, B.C.

Vernon married Gladys Fudness and they have one daughter. They live in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

Lloyd married Karen Nicholson and they have three daughters. Lloyd later married Barbara Behn and they have one son. They live in Campbell River, B.C. John Brady passed away August 26, 1957.

Edwin passed away in January, 1972, Stanley lives in Vermilion, Alberta.



John Brady with horses Teddy and Nigger which he had raised, 1950.



James, Stanley, Ellen (McInroy), Vernon, Lloyd, Jan, 1972. Taken after Eddie's funeral.



Lottie and Garrett Breckenridge.

GARRETT AND LOTTIE BRECKENRIDGE

Garrett was born in the States in 1896. Lottie was born at High River about 1900. They farmed for awhile in the Lynx School District on the N.W. 36-47-10.

They had two boys; Bobby and Herbie and a chosen daughter, Jeannine. Bobby and Herbie took some of their schooling at Lynx. Garrett and Lottie and their family moved to New Westminster, B.C. in about 1933 or 1934. They went from there to the gold mines at Braborn, B.C. and then back to New Westminster. Then Garrett bought a ranch at Lumby, B.C. where they stayed until 1940, when Garrett joined the army. He was discharged from the army in 1943 and they moved to Trail, B.C. and stayed there until the early 50's. From there they moved to Salmon Arm, B.C. and then to Penticton.

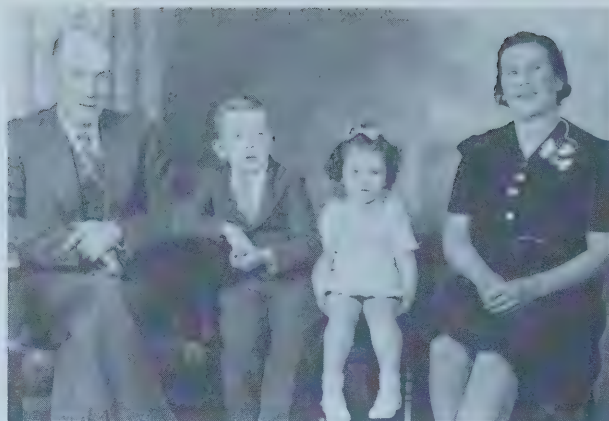
Garrett passed away in 1966, Lottie in 1978. Their son Bobby passed away in 1982. Herbie makes his home in New Brunswick and Jeannine makes her home in Rossland, B.C.

GEORGE BRIDGEMAN FAMILY

George Milton Bridgeman, born in Uffington, Ontario in 1900, arrived in Alberta on July 4th, 1911 with the Wm. Bridgeman family. They lived northeast of Viking for two years until Wm. Bridgeman moved his family to his homestead in the Lynx district.

George lived here and attended Batt school along with his sister, Gladys (now Mrs. Bob Deverich) and his brother Stan. In 1926 Wm. Bridgeman established the Bridgeman farm in the Batt Valley which is presently owned by George's son Bruce.

George lived and farmed here until he married Mildred Wright of Ranfurly in 1935 when they moved to their own farm two miles north of the Wm. Bridgeman place. Being depression years George and Mildred lived in a



George, Bruce, Stella, Mildred Bridgeman.

granary until two years later when they purchased a house and built on, making room to board the schoolteacher, Nan Kennedy. Miss Kennedy taught at the Batt school from 1931-38, taking a very active part in the community as did the Bridgeman family.

George moved his family to the Wm. Bridgeman farm site in 1952, when Mike and Marjorie Oracheski purchased his farm land.

George was active in the Batt community as well as in Jarrow. He served on the school board from 1936-41, during which time he held the office of secretary for several years. George was a faithful Red Cross volunteer, helping to raise funds with auction sales, box socials, dances etc. He was always a hard worker and a good neighbor, dancing being one of his greatest loves. Jarrow was the main town and the family attended the United Church there.

In 1959 George was elected president of the Jarrow R.E.A. which was organized at this time to enable the community to obtain electricity. He held this position for several years. He was also a member of the Kinsella B.P.O. Elks.



Claude Shippy, George and Mildred Bridgeman, 1935.

George and Mildred lived on the Bridgeman farm until 1969 when they retired to Viking. George enjoyed his association with the Senior Citizens after his retirement. He resided here until his passing on March 20th, 1976.

George was always a proud father and grandfather, raising a son and a daughter. Bruce, the son, resides on a farm northeast of Viking with his wife Laura (nee Hodgins) and two and one-half year old daughter Beverly Jo. Stella, daughter, married Richard Glasgow, they reside in Irma, where Richard is employed by Northwestern Utilities. They have four daughters, Leigha, Leila-May, Kelly and Kimberly.

Mildred is now living at the Chacutenah Manor in Irma.



William and Jenny Bridgeman, 1936.

WM. BRIDGEMAN FAMILY

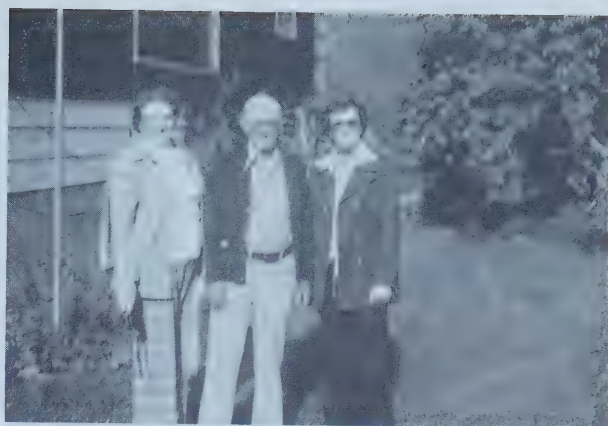
by Elsie Dewar

The Bridgeman family immigrated here from Bracebridge, Ontario on July 4th, 1911 landing in Viking. They arrived by train bringing all their household effects, one team of horses, a cow and a walking plough.

The family consisted of sons, George and Stanley, and daughter Gladys and mother's father, George Walker. He passed away in 1921.

Their first home was a sod-roofed shack, northeast of Viking where they lived for three years. They homesteaded northeast of Kinsella in 1914 in what was later known as the Lynx district. Dad was one of the main instigators in the building of the Lynx School in 1918.

They engaged in mixed farming, raising lots of cattle as pasture was plentiful in those days. I arrived in 1917 and



Elsie, Stan and Ida Bridgeman at the Loring home in 1976.

by the time I became school age, there weren't enough pupils to open the Lynx school. In 1929 Dad built a new home on his land six miles east of Kinsella in the Batt valley, where they resided until the time of their passing.

George married Mildred Wright.

Stanley married Ida Lovig, both boys settled on farms in the Batt district.

Gladys married Robert Deverich and they reside in California. I, Elsie (Lovig) Dewar reside in Wainwright, Alberta.

JIM BRONSON STORY

by Bill Miller

The James Bronson family came to Canada from the United States in the very early part of the twentieth century. The family consisted of the parents, Jim and his wife Martha, and sons Ray, Roy and Doyle, and daughters Grace and Edith. They came to the area south of Bawlf and it was there that they took up homesteads and became established. They had lived in that area perhaps five or six years when land became available south of Irma. Being the typical pioneers that they were, this was too much to resist. Most of the family sold their holding south of Bawlf and moved to the area about midway between Irma and Hardisty. Since they had used up their original homestead rights south of Bawlf, they



Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bronson.

could now take up what were called purchased homesteads. That is, they had to make a trifling little payment to get them.

It was about 1910 then that Jim Bronson settled on the southwest quarter of 16-44-9-W4th. He built the house which is still in use there today. Jim's two younger sons, Roy and Doyle took up two of the other quarters in that same section and the fourth quarter was claimed by a young fellow by the name of Glen Hazen. Jim's oldest son, Ray, took up the land just south across the section line from his father, it being the northwest quarter of 9-44-9W4th. A school was soon established on the southwest corner of this quarter and it was given the name of Bronson. Later, the name was changed to Silverlane.

Hardisty was booming at that time, and as Jim Bronson was quite a builder, he built a boarding house in Hardisty about 1914 or '15. As it turned out, he didn't keep this house long. It took five years to prove up on a homestead, and by 1916 Jim Bronson had accomplished this. It was about this time that the Charles Rileys had moved up from Kansas. Since they had money, they did not have to become Canadian to obtain land; they were simply able to buy it. Certainly land at that time was available and cheap enough!

So, in 1916, three major changes occurred for the Jim Bronson family. They sold their farm to Charles Riley. They sold their house in Hardisty to Charles Miller. The family moved to Kamloops, B.C. However, only two of the children were still young enough to be interested in staying with the parents, Doyle and Edith.

By 1926, Mrs. Bronson had developed such an extreme case of rheumatism that the doctor had given her up and it was assumed that she would soon die. By that time, the younger daughter Edith, had married, moved back to Alberta and was living southwest of Sedgewick. Jim and Martha came there temporarily to be with their daughter. However, this dryer Alberta air had begun to work its magic, and instead of dying, Mrs. Bronson began to recover. Indeed, the change was dramatic and incredible. In just a few months, Martha's recovery was virtually complete. They rented a place in Hardisty and lived there during the winter of 1926 and '27. In the summer of 1927, the Bronsons bought a quarter of land along the Hardisty-Irma road about two and one-half miles south of their homestead, where the Rileys were still living. They

built a small house there and lived in it till Jim passed away in the summer of 1938. The youngest son Doyle then took his mother back out to Chilliwack, B.C. where she passed away in 1952.

The understanding I have is that the Jimmy Voros's are now living on the Jim Bronson homestead. The house has been altered and added to a little bit, but basically, it is the same house that Jim Bronson built back in 1912.

JOHN W. BRONSON

by Violet Metz

Our family immigrated to Canada from North Dakota in June, 1918. Dad and my two brothers Verne and Elvin had come in the fall of 1917 and spent that winter with his brother the James Bronsons. Dad took up a homestead a mile east of them. In June of 1918 Dad returned to Grano, North Dakota, loaded a boxcar with our belongings and Mother and I came to Canada with him.

Mother was not enthused about coming to a new country and going through the hardships of pioneering, but we were given glowing accounts of how wonderful Canada was. Coming from North Dakota where cyclones and blizzards were common, we were pleased to hear that the wind seldom blew in Canada. We heard stories of snow piling a foot deep on fence posts. This was proved false the first year when a terrifying cyclone demolished our tent and sent us scurrying to take shelter in a pole barn. I must say though it is the only twister I ever experienced in Canada.

Those early years hold many nostalgic memories. We had close neighbors - Harveys, Mildons, Coopers, Roy Bronsons, Dawsons, Wests, Colburnes and Jimmy Bell. Someone was living on every quarter.

There were plenty of activities to keep us entertained. Dances and box socials were held in schoolhouses and one winter we had a very active literary society under the leadership of Mr. Horn. Often we banded together and pulled a surprise party on one of the neighbors. The ladies took lunch, the furniture removed and to the tune of a violin, guitar or organ we danced until morning. In the summer the neighbors took picnic lunches and got together for Sunday ball games. We had an enthusiastic basketball team organized and coached by Jimmy Bell.

We kids took our eight grades of school at Bronson school. In 1923 when I was ready for high school Mother



Edith, Grace, Lucy Lambly, Aunt Mat, Rose with Eileen in carriage, Roy, Uncle Jim, Rob Hall, _____, two small children, Donald and Mildred.

opened a nursing home in Hardisty and Hardisty's first hospital was born.

John and son Elvin returned to the States to live. Verne went to Vernon, B.C. and I married Lester Metz and live north of Hardisty. Dad passed away in 1937 and Mother in 1945.



John Bronson family about 1911 or 1912.



John and Hattie Bronson, Verne and Elvin with dog, Curley.

RAY BRONSON

by Earl Bronson

My father, Raymond Bronson emigrated from Nebraska around 1904 with his wife and son Charles. First they settled at Rosalind where I was born in my aunt's sod house in 1905. We moved to our homestead N.W. 9-44-9-W4th about halfway between Irma and Hardisty in 1910.

There was no school in our district for a year or so, making it necessary for Charles and I to ride four miles to another school.

Mother died when I was two, and Dad married again.



Ray, Jim, Gerald and Earl Bronson, four generations.

To this union were born three girls, Nora, Laura and Iola. When his second wife died Dad married a neighbor lady who had several children. They, in turn, had two boys George and Veryl.

With the coming of the dry years Dad could not make a living on the homestead so moved to Lac La Biche. Later he sold that and moved to Edmonton and then Victoria where he spent his last years with his daughter Nora and husband.

In April, 1928, I married Lulu Fauld who was teaching at Silver Lane school. We had six children, Gerald, Maxine, Victor, Robert, Phyllis and Rodger. They are all married and live in Alberta or B.C. There are twelve grandchildren.

I was overseas with the army for almost five years. After leaving the army, I worked for the C.P.R. for sixteen years. Lulu and I worked as Commissionaire in the Army Camp at Wainwright. Lulu passed away in 1968 shortly after our fortieth wedding anniversary.

I have since remarried, am now retired and living a life of leisure. We enjoy a bit of travelling.



Earl Bronson Family, Earl, Gerald, Maxine, Victor, Robert, Phyllis, Roger.

ROY BRONSON

Roy Bronson came to Rosalind, Alberta, with his parents in 1903 where they homesteaded. Around 1910 they moved to a place about twelve miles south of Irma, where they purchased land. Roy bought the Colborne place and lived there until the forties when they moved to British Columbia.

Roy married Rose Atton of Hardisty and they had five children, four girls and a boy.

Roy was a diversified farmer, milking cows, raising sheep, chickens and horses. During the depression he supplemented their income by trading and hunting coyotes. Rose was a very versatile person doing all the things required of a wife in those days in order to make ends meet.

Four of their children are living but the oldest Mildred Scott passed away at Hope, B.C. in 1976. Eileen Nehr lives in Santa Anna, California; Norma Roche lives at Lakewood, California; Royle Dobb and Laurel live in Sacramento, California.



Roy Bronson



Roy Bronson family - Rose, Royle, Roy, Norma, Laurel.



July, 1934 - Bronson family. Left to Right: baby-Jim, father-Tom, mother-Hazel, son-Floyd, daughter-Irene, son-Lyle.

TOM BRONSON FAMILY

by Hazel Bronson

Tom Bronson was born and raised in Iowa. In the spring of 1920 he married Hazel Martin who was from Nebraska. Our two children Floyd and Irene were born there.

In 1927 we came to Canada and bought a quarter section from Charlie Miller about ten or twelve miles south of Irma in the Silver Lane district. Later we acquired another quarter of land joining our home quarter on the north. Eventually we bought another half section on the south.

In 1928 another son Lyle, was born and in 1933 our family was completed with the birth of son Jim. The children attended Silver Lane school.

We lived on the farm for twenty-five years until ill health forced us to leave. We lived in Hardisty until Tom's death in 1953.

At present I am living in the Bethany Nursing Home in Camrose.

Floyd and Jim are at Hardisty, Irene is in Camrose and Lyle is living in B.C.

CHESTER BROWN FAMILY

Chester Brown came west to the Irma district from Ontario in the spring of 1911. He was accompanied by his mother and stepfather Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Ambler and their two small boys, Matthew Clarkson and Gordon. They brought their household necessities, two horses and farm machinery. The machinery was too small for western farming and had to be replaced. Money was scarce and the going was, to put it mildly - not easy.

The Ambler family first settled on the Joe Wallace homestead by Ross school. The homestead shack was air-conditioned - both roof and walls. The rains came in, also the bugs!

Three oxen were bought from James Kennedy and a cow from Tom Coultsman. Western farming began in earnest that spring. Wheat and oats were sown. Of that only the oats were saved. The wheat froze so badly the chickens refused to eat it. That first summer Mr. Ambler took ill. He passed away in August.

Thus Chester, then in his late teens, was faced with the

DORIS (DARLING) BROWN

by Doris Brown

I was born in Wainwright, Alberta on May 18, 1940 to my parents Eugene (better known as Jake) and Orril Darling who at that time were living on a farm southwest of Vermilion.

Later the family moved to Saskatchewan, first to Crooked River and then to a bush farm four miles south of Prairie River. At that time I had one older brother Allan and sister Marian and one younger sister Jean. Eventually we lived on an acreage one and one-half miles south of Prairie River. The river was just across the road from our house. We spent many hours swimming in it in the summer and skating on it in the winter.

My two younger brothers Emory and Gordon were born in Saskatchewan.

Some very good friends and neighbors in Prairie River were the MacLaughlans, Moores, Kendalls, Waskowics and McVicar.

I started my schooling in Prairie River and took from grade one to six there. As we had no transportation we had to walk the mile and one-half to town. We did not have any electricity or running water so there were always the chores to be done after school like filling the barrel with snow for water in the wintertime and getting water from the river across the road in the summer. Then there was always the woodbox to be filled as well. The two big events at school were the Christmas Concert and the school Field Day which was also a family picnic.



Doris Darling 5 years old at Prairie River, Sask.

Saturday evening was a big night in our house. That was the night the old round tub came out for the weekly bath and then we got to listen to Foster Hewitt on Hockey Night in Canada. Emory was always a Montreal fan so of course the rest of us were Toronto Maple Leaf fans. We girls used to spend many hours making mud pies, but our mud pies were different from most. We would steal the eggs out of the chicken house and put in our pies then dig a hole in the ground and bury the shells. Mother could never figure out why there were so few



Chester Brown family. Left to Right: Arnold, Yvonne, Agnes with Carol and Chester.

responsibility of providing for the family. To survive meant hard work, privation, self-denial and unmeasurable courage. Such leave an indelible mark on mind and mood, but he did not fail those who depended on him.

In the fall of 1911 the family moved to what became the Education Point district where the school, with that name, was built in 1913. A two-room shack was built on what became the Brown farm. This shack was their home until a real home was built in 1929. That means for eighteen years, in winter the inside of the shack was little warmer than outside.

Chester broke the first twenty-five acres using three oxen and one horse and sulky plow. In 1918 the potatoes froze on the 13th of July. Beans were usually used as substitute. So it came about that Matthew Clarkson (Tam), whenever this food was offered, would state with emphasis "I want no beans".

M. Clarkson and Gordon attended school at Education Point, though the rule at that time was - as little as possible.

The first auto was a Model T costing five hundred dollars in 1917.

Mother Ambler passed away in 1926 at the age of fifty-four. So many of the pioneers did not live to even glimpse the bloom of the coming fruit of their labor and suffering.

In 1936 Chester married Aslaug Solhaug (Agnes). To this union three children, Yvonne, Arnold and Carol were born.

Yvonne married Henry Lovig, who has since passed away. They had three daughters and a son. Yvonne is working as a cook in St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose.

Arnie is a projectionist presently working at Corral 4 Drive-in Theatre, Calgary. He and his wife Angela, make their home in Calgary.

Carol started working for Alberta Government Telephones at the age of eighteen. She married Malcolm Barr and they had one son, Gerald. Malcolm passed away when Gerald was three years old. Both Yvonne and Carol have brought up their children alone.

The Chester Browns moved to Wainwright in 1960 and then to Red Deer in 1969. Chester passed away in September, 1982 in his ninety-second year.

Agnes remarried but her second husband passed away in July, 1983 and Agnes continues to live in Red Deer.

eggs. It was long after we were all married that she found out.

The two things that I feared most as a young child were rats and bears. We had rats in the barn and out-buildings as well as the haystacks. We used to play in the haystacks which was a no no. After the odd rat bite we learned to stay out of them. The bears were another story. In the spring, summer and fall they were always around. I remember getting up one Saturday morning and looking out the window to see a young bear out in our front yard as well as coming face to face with a mother and cub on our way to school one morning. We did not get to school that day because we were too scared to pass them so turned around and went home.

In 1952 the family moved back to Alberta where Mother began to teach again. She taught at the rural school of Sydenham north of Wainwright the first year. Here I met new friends; the Eeles, Woodwards, Goulds, Marchands and others.

The summer of 1953 we moved to the Holt Colony where Mother taught school until after I had completed my high school. The summer I was thirteen years old I decided that I should have a job. I put an ad in the Edmonton Journal and got a job in Edmonton doing housework and looking after two young children for a young couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Albers. They were very nice people and were very good to me but I was never so lonely or homesick in all my life.

I took my grade eight at Batt School and completed the rest of my schooling in Irma. The year I was in grade nine I stayed with Ruby and Neil MacMillan as they did not teach grade nine at Batt and there were no school buses at that time. Marian, Jean and I bached in the basement suite at Bert and Gladys Evans the year I took my ten. I went out to help at Stuart and Doris Fenton's the year I was in eleven and rode the school bus from the Holt Colony in grade twelve.

I will never forget Mrs. Ballentine's grade twelve Biology class. We did a lot of interesting things in that class. The one thing that stands out in my mind was the time that Darlene (Veer) Lovig brought the bat to school so we could study its circulatory system but we gave it a little too much ether and instead of just putting it to sleep we killed the poor thing.

In the fall of 1958 I started at McTavish Business College in Edmonton. Margaret (Oracheski) Archibald and I stayed together in a basement suite on 5th Street south of Jasper Avenue. Margaret and I roomed together until 1960. We had many good times together. One of our favorite pastimes was going to the Old Silk Hat Restaurant and having our tea cups read.

My first job after college was a two week stint at the A.M.A. office stuffing envelopes, very dull. From there I went to the Alberta Government, Department of Labour, where I worked until August of 1963.

I was married to David Brown of Edmonton, formerly of Kinsella, on July 2, 1960. This almost ended in divorce in May 1961 when he left me standing on the corner of 7th Street and Jasper Avenue until 5:30 p.m. It was my 21st birthday and Dave was to pick me up after work as we were going out for dinner but he never showed up. I took the bus home to find him there with a rented truck



Dave and Doris Brown and children, Colleen, David and Sandra.

loaded with peat for our backyard. The truck had broken down and he had to get it fixed, unloaded and back to the rental place before 7:00 P.M. We got the truck unloaded, fixed and back and finally out for dinner. All was forgiven.

Our oldest daughter Sandra was born in August 1962; Colleen, our second daughter, was born in March 1964 and last but not least David Jr. arrived in October of 1966.

The children are pretty well grown up now with Sandra out working, Colleen going to college and David in his second last year of high school.

The years have gone by very quickly. Over the years we have been very active in our Community League with our family being involved with hockey, ball, figure skating, skiing and curling. Dave and I both look forward to many more years of curling but plan on leaving the other sports to the young people.

We have gone on many good trips over the years. Our first big trip was to Ontario in 1963 which we really enjoyed but had left our baby behind so were in a hurry to get back. In 1967 Dave, I and the girls went to Vancouver Island. Our first big trip as a family was to Mexico, San Francisco and Disneyland in the spring of 1975. Mother started out with us but had to return from Las Vegas when we learned that Grandma Fischer had passed away. This dampened our spirits but as Mother said we had to accept this and life had to go on. Our last trip as a family was to the East Coast of Canada in 1979. This was a beautiful trip, one we will always remember and hope I am able to do again someday.

At the present time I am employed by Ecco Heating where I have been for the past six years and Dave is still with the City of Edmonton, where we will probably spend the duration of our working years.

I hope to have many more years of enjoyable life.

MR. AND MRS. JAMES BROWN

by Nerine Hunter

James and Caroline Brown came from Kansas, U.S.A. to Alberta in a covered wagon. They were Goldie Shippy's Mom and Dad.

They had a family of seven boys, Sam, Roy, Ray, Glenn, Clay, Delbert and Lester and one girl Goldie.

When they came to Alberta they lived on the S.W. 24-47-10-W4. They moved a house in by oxen. They used to have big gatherings there on the 4th of July.



James and Carrie Brown when they lived on the Wilson place.

Here are some other places they lived while in Alberta. They lived in a mud house on the N.E. 24-47-10-W4. This was called the Wilson quarter. They also lived on the S.W. 2-48-10-W4 where Tommy Greenwood now lives. What I remember when they lived here was that Grandma Caroline was so proud of her flower beds of pansies and morning glories and petunias. I also remember my Grandpa James making flower baskets out of willows and Grandma making flowers out of crepe paper and waxing them. They would sell these.

Their travels were made in very old cars. In later years they moved to Tacoma, Washington until their passing.



Claude Shippy homestead, Mr. and Mrs. James Brown with Goldie Shippy, Brown boys and Ross Shippy.

STAN AND ELLEN BROWN

by Shirley Mae Tomlinson

My father, Stanley Marshall Brown, was born in St. Catharines, Ontario on June 6th, 1900. In 1906, he moved west with his family by train to homestead a quarter section, twelve miles north of Hardisty, Alberta. They lived in a sod shack. In 1910, the family moved into Hardisty where his father became Postmaster and Stan started school. When he was thirteen, he helped his dad in the post office at night while going to school during the day. A couple of years later he started working in a garage to learn mechanics and continued at night in the post office. In 1920, he decided to try clerking and started in Ruttan's General Store in Hardisty and worked there until it was sold in 1924.

My mother, Mary Ellen Keilback, was born in Sprucedale, Ontario on March 15th, 1896. She was the first girl of two in a family of twelve. When six months old, the family moved to Beausejour, Manitoba, where they farmed south of town. About 1907, her father started the first glass factory in Western Canada called the Manitoba Glass Factory. It was later sold and moved to Redcliff, Alberta.

In 1921, my mother arrived in Hardisty, Alberta, to clerk in Starr's Store. My parents met a week later and were married on November 19th, 1926. They lived in Killam, Wetaskiwin, Pouce Coupe, B.C., where they continued in the store business. They came to Irma in 1933 to work at McFarland's Store to replace Mr. Skiles



Stan and Ellen Brown's 50th Anniversary in 1976.

for a month, but stayed thirty-seven and one half years. Dad enjoyed working in Irma as he knew everyone. He retired in 1971.

We lived on the edge of town in the house presently occupied by Linda and Mel Pomeroy. Then later, we moved closer downtown to a house built by George Tripp on a half acre of land. Many happy hours were spent gardening. The United Church was always a vital part of our lives. Dad joined the Bible Class in 1934 but started to teach after a few Sundays. At that time the only Sunday School was the United, so it was very large for many years. At that time there were fourteen teachers and about one hundred and twenty-five pupils. In 1955, Mr. Reeds moved to B.C. and Dad became Superintendent for about fifteen years.

Dad worked many hours helping to build the first curling rink, under the direction of Rev. Longmire. The old Fletcher hardware store was torn down, the nails removed and straightened and everything was used. Dad looked after the draw for awhile and curled for many years. Later on, a need for a golf course became apparent and Dad helped to get it started and playable. Many enjoyable hours were spent golfing with Mother as his caddy.

When Dad retired they spent many hours golfing and gardening in the summer. In the winter, they moved to Edmonton until 1977 when they moved to a suite near the family. Their family consists of one daughter, Shirley Mae, who married Norris Tomlinson in 1958 and are living in Edmonton. They have one son, David and one daughter, Susan, in high school.

Mother and Dad celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in Irma in 1976. It was a very happy and special occasion.

Editor's Note: Mr. Brown passed away May, 1984.



Stan Brown sweeping the sidewalk in front of McFarlands store.



Else Bruhaug off to town with old Jenny.

ED AND ELSE BRUHAUG

by Borghild Meakins

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bruhaug and I (daughter, Borghild) arrived in Jarrow on the local C.N passenger train on a pleasant August afternoon in 1927. Our arrival caused quite a little stir in the then thriving town of Jarrow. We were not expected until evening on the transcontinental from the east. However, typical of my dad, he was so impatient to get to his final destination that he persuaded the C.N.R. at Winnipeg to let him take the local instead. How he managed all this without a word of English - we were immigrants from Norway - remains a mystery, but here we were, and in our national finery no less - outfits donned to be properly attired for our new adventure.

Jarrow was quite at a loss for a few minutes, but not for long. Mr. Lovig Sr. fetched by some enterprising lads took us off to the hotel (yes, Jarrow had a hotel in those days) where young Werner Lindquist offered to drive us out to our hosts, the Arthur Overbys.

So here we were in Canada, and with family and friends after an arduous journey by ship and rail from Telemarken, Norway to Jarrow, Alberta.

Many are the "firsts" of Alberta that come to mind, not the least of which it was to see Alice Overby on horseback bringing in the milk cows, and Arthur coming in with a four-horse outfit with which he had been harrowing summerfallow that day.

Mom and Dad worked around Kinsella with Annie and Olaf Overbo that first fall and winter. In the new year they moved to the John Kennedy farm in the Metropolitan district, which we rented for some years.

I started school in Lake Vernon with Nora Skori as teacher, then at Metropolitan with Miss Finlayson and Miss Staples as teachers.

In the spring of 1930, my parents purchased the Misner property in the Batt district, north of Jarrow. We moved there in time for the spring work that year. Wish that we had a movie of that move for the readers of this book, no Allied Van Lines, let me tell you. All chattels and furnishings were brought "on foot" and wagons the twelve miles or so. Mother tells often she covered fifty miles that day persuading reluctant calves, cows, horses etc., that their new home lay this way, not that.

Mom and Dad were lovers of farm life, were naturals for Alberta farming and making do all along the depression years. They seemingly thrived on hard work and our home never suffered from lack of anything, even tho' setting the table might involve bartering eggs and butter at the local stores. We had a good garden always and Mother always kept chickens and turkeys to add to the farm needs.

Highlights of the Batt's years includes the birth of a sister for me. Olga joined us there, born on one of the coldest, snowiest January's on record.



Ed Bruhaug brings home the firewood, 1930's.

The folks speak often of the best crop they ever had which was threshed by Horinek's crew in the snow in the fall of 1936. Grain was sent to the east for drying and from a carload of wheat eighteen dollars was netted - after Christmas that year.

After finishing my grade school years at Batt and High School at Kinsella, my parents somehow managed to see me through Normal School in Edmonton. Olga went into a nursing career, on graduating from Irma High School. I taught near home for many years, at Roseberry, Strawberry Plains, Jarrow, Batt and finally Albert. In 1944, Bill Meakins and I were married and farmed for a time in the Batt district. Our two children were born there, daughter, Shirleyanne, and son, Douglas. In 1958 we moved to Edmonton, where we still reside.

Olga married Leo Marks and took up a home in Edmonton, where three sons were born to them, Paul, John and Gordon. They later moved to Sydney, B.C. where they still reside.

Mom and Dad continued farming until they retired to Viking in 1963, where they had many good years in their new home. There, as elsewhere, their coffeepot was always ready for neighbors and friends to drop in.

Dad passed away September 9th, 1979.

It is hard to set down half a century of living in a few pages, only an outline is possible. I can't leave their story without a final tribute to the steadfastness and honest effort my parents put into their work over the years. I feel my own life has been enriched by their example during good and bad times. Such valiant efforts by our pioneers enable us to live the good life in our fast moving society of the 80's. Thank you, Else and Ed, for a job well done.

Else Bruhaug died September 10th, 1983.



Bill and Marion Burns.

WILLIAM AND MARION BURNS

Bill Burns was born in Newfoundland and came to the Spruce Grove area of Alberta with his parents where they settled on a farm. Marion was born and raised at Viking, Alberta. Bill served for four years in W.W. II.

Bill and Marion were married in Edmonton in 1955 and made their home there until 1960 at which time they moved to Viking. After a two-year stay they moved to Irma and Bill worked at the Wainwright Army Camp until his retirement in 1980.

The couple had five children - four boys and a girl. Kenneth (Bill) works for A.G.T. in Edmonton. In 1978 he married Helen Schneider of Edmonton. They have two children Melissa and Kenneth. Darrell works as a carpenter and makes his home in Wainwright. Lyle is employed in Oil Field Construction at Lloydminster where he lives. Darlene married Marty Hinton in 1980 and they live at Mannville. They have two boys Tyler and Cody. Randy lives at home and does carpenter work in the Irma area.

The five Burns children took their schooling at Irma.



Bill and Helen Burns.

EARL BURR FAMILY

by Marguerite Burr



Darlene (Burns) and Marty Hinton.



Lyle Burns



Darrell Burns



Randy Burns

CARL BURR FAMILY

Carl Burr was born in Minnesota in 1896 as Carl Carleson. As a small child he was adopted by Jack and Emily Burr and took their name.

In 1913 he came with his adoptive parents to Canada and remained there most of the time, until he returned to the States to live permanently. He homesteaded the N.W. 1/4 30-46-9-W4th and proved it up. It was later sold to Tim Shaw, Orville Olsen farms it today.

Carl married Bessie Burr and they had two children, Bob and Earl. Carl worked for various people in the Irma area. He was an excellent worker and a good horseman. Carl worked for Percy Jones for a number of years.

Carl and Bessie separated and Carl returned to the United States. He died in Texas in 1963.

Earl was born in Spokane, Washington on July 25th, 1923. At an early age he came to Canada and resided in the Irma area until his death.

Earl grew up on a farm in the Ross District northwest of Irma, and took his education at the Ross school. After leaving school he farmed his stepfather's land until 1946 when he purchased the Haynes place, N. 1/2 of 26-46-10-W4th in the Batt school district.

In July of 1946 Earl married Marguerite Miller who had been born and raised in the Melbrae district, north of Hardisty. Marguerite had been teaching school at Ross from 1944-1946. After their marriage they moved onto the Haynes place and Marguerite taught school at Batt for four years.

We, in time, bought the Archie Gustafson quarter, a Jamison quarter and the quarter of land owned by George Ekse and this together with the half section of Haynes and a C.P.R. quarter purchased in 1945 comprises our farm as it stands today.

Earl and Marguerite had four children, Beverly born in 1952, who works for A.G.T. in Edmonton. Patricia, born in 1954 and works for Arrow Welding Supplies in Edmonton. Wendy born in 1959 and teaches Grade two in Holden. Brian born in 1961 lives on the farm with his mother. Earl passed away in 1977, a victim of cancer.

Earl bought his first new tractor, an Oliver 88, in 1949. In 1950 he purchased a pull-type Oliver swather and a pull-type Oliver combine, the first one in the Batt district.

In 1954 when the electric power came to the district, they decided to build a new house and move to a new building site on the southwest corner of N.E. 26-46-10-W4th. The natural gas line is just across the road making installation economical. The move constituted a big change of lifestyle. A new barn was built and a well bored by Tom Woods. At a depth of sixteen feet the well driller hit gravel which had to be pailed out of the well until they reached thirty-two feet. Enough gravel was taken from the well to make the foundation for the barn. The well is still in use today.

Plumbing was installed in the house in 1958 and in 1959 the Burrs bought a Surge milking machine to milk their dozen cows. They quit milking in 1971 and sold their cows to Jack MacKay and Wayne King.

In 1967 Earl started dabbling in the stock market. He became fascinated and over the next ten years bought and sold over sixty different stocks. Besides it being profitable, he found it educational and an excellent hobby.

Times were hard during the first years of marriage. Their first crop in 1946, two hundred acres of wheat, froze in the blossom and was worthless. The next few years were dry and without the use of fertilizer the yields were small. In 1950 the yield was good and by 1952 they were able to pay off the six thousand dollars, (the purchase price of their original half section). They were the first ones to pay for and therefore own that piece of land. Marguerite's teaching wages amounted to eight hundred and forty dollars per year in 1946, but when she quit teaching in 1950 she was getting two thousand dollars per



Marguerite and Earl Burr.

year.

There were fun times too. All of the district would turn out for school or Sunday School picnics, school concerts, dances and card parties. Sports days were held on Wednesday afternoons in those days. Everyone enjoyed visiting and games of cards at a neighbor's place.

The Burr family have enjoyed life in the Batt Community.

In 1977 because of Earl's illness the Burrs rented their land to Bill Holt until Brian was old enough to farm.

On July 10th, 1982, Bill married Wendy Burr and they moved to the Dodds Greenwood farm east of Kinsella. Wendy continued teaching in Holden.

Earl and Marguerite encouraged their children to take part in sports. The four curled in high school and took part in bonspiels as well as regular curling with the Irma

club. Pat and Wendy played ball with the Irma Tigerettes. Brian started playing ball with the Albert Royals, and later played with the Irma Lancers and Tigers. He was also a member of the junior team that won the gold medal in 1977.

Brian, as did all the Burr family, enjoyed hockey. He came up through the ranks of Minor Hockey, played for the Wainwright Bisons and then returned to play with the Irma Aces.

Marguerite became secretary-treasurer of Irma Minor Hockey in 1977 and still enjoys that position in 1983. Sports have provided much entertainment for the Burrs.

April 1983, saw Brian take over the home farm and thus a second generation of Burrs on N.E. 26-46-10-W4th began a new era.

JACK BURR FAMILY

Jack Burr came from Minnesota to the Jarrow area around 1911 to look for a homestead. In 1913 he homesteaded the N.E. 24-46-10-W4th and brought his wife Emily and two adopted children, Carl and Bessie, to live here.

For two years they lived in a sod house on the O'Rourke place S.E. 30-46-9-W4th until a house was built on their own land. Charlie Anderson built the foundation and Billy Newell constructed the four room house.

Jack Burr hired Warren Lusk, who owned a team of oxen, to break a few acres of land. Most of it was in and around brush patches, as at that time there was no machinery to take brush out, so it had to be cut by hand.

In 1917 he sold out to Emil Wirth and went back to Minnesota, taking his wife and daughter. Carl remained in Canada. Emily passed away in Minnesota and Jack decided to come back to Canada. For a time he lived with Emil Wirth and Bessie worked for various neighbors. Jack bought some land in the Roseberry district on which the school was built. Jack passed away in 1921.



Beverly, Pat, Brian, and Wendy Burr.



Bob and Evelyn Burr.

ROBERT BURR FAMILY

Bob Burr was born in Edmonton in 1920. He moved to Irma district with his parents in 1925. They lived on a farm in the Ross School district and he attended school at Ross. In 1943 Bob joined the army and after the war stayed on to make it his career.

In 1945 Bob married Evelyn Drake, a girl from Shamrock, Saskatchewan. They have three children, Carolyn, who is married and lives in Hay River, N.W.T., Ronald, married and lives in Chilliwack, also Gary who lives in Chilliwack.

During his army life Bob and family were stationed in many Canadian bases and as well they spent some time in Germany. After nearly twenty-five years of military service, Bob received his discharge. He then worked as a Civil Servant with the Army at Sardis, B.C.

In 1982 Bob retired and he and Evelyn make their home in Chilliwack, B.C.

JAMES BURRELL

James Jackson Burrell was born at Brooklyn, Ontario in 1879. He was a pioneer of the west in 1906 and homesteaded in the Strawberry Plains district. He hauled freight with a four oxen team, first for the railroad at Battleford and later for the Battle River bridge near Fabyan.

In 1915 Jim went to Great Falls, Montana where he married Mary Ellen Comer who had been born in 1882 in Montana. Bringing his wife with him he returned to the homestead in 1927 and continued to reside there until his death in 1954.

Mr. Burrell was well remembered for his work as councillor in the old Battle River district. They were kindly friends and neighbors.

After Mr. Burrell passed away the neighbors of Strawberry Plains moved Mary's house into Irma where she resided until her health failed and she lived for awhile in Blunts Nursing Home before her passing in 1973. Both Jim and Mary are buried in the Irma Cemetery.

Mary Burrell was well known for her paintings. Harry Long has a picture of a Hereford bull painted by Mrs. Burrell which he treasures. Some of her paintings were wall murals. Mrs. Burrell enjoyed remodelling her house which she frequently did. Their homestead is now owned by Gordon Fischer.

Lorna Jackson recalls Mr. Burrell coming to Irma with his white team for his groceries. Mr. Burrell would sit in front of the Co-op store holding his team while Vic Torrence filled his grocery order. Then he'd go home with his two-week food supply.

BOB BURTON FAMILY

Bob finished high school in 1963 and attended University of Alberta for three years in an agriculture program. He started work with the Farm Credit Corporation in the summer of 1967 and continued in their employment until 1974, working out of the Evansburg, Vegreville, and Medicine Hat offices.

Pat Mathew graduated from Irma High School in 1974 and completed her nurses training at the University Hospital in 1967.

Bob and Pat were married in June, 1968. A son, Richard Dale was born in December, 1969 in Vegreville and a daughter, Shari Lynn, was born in October, 1973 in Medicine Hat.

They returned to the Irma district in the spring of 1974 to take up farming as a full-time occupation. At that time they purchased Chris Burton's farm. Family members have become involved in several community projects and clubs over the years.



Don Burton Family. Edith, Phil, Doug, Ken, Wayne Schultz, Bernice. Front Row: Derrick, Chris and Gail Oracheski, June holding baby Nathan Schultz and Don.

DONALD BURTON

Don is the youngest child of nine children born to Alfred and Edith Burton. He was born December 27, 1922, in Irma, Alberta and has been farming in the Irma district since 1953. His brothers and sisters are: Jack (deceased), Chris (deceased), Roy, Dorothy (deceased), Joe, Molly (Mrs. Ted Thurston), Connie (Mrs. Frank Keller and Gwen (Mrs. Frank Newman).

Don attended public school at Alma Mater for eight years and attended Irma High School for one year. He joined the R.C.A.F. in November 1942 and was stationed in Edmonton, Calgary, Prince Rupert and Patricia Bay on Vancouver Island, until his discharge February 26, 1946.

In 1953, he purchased the Ted Orton farm, Hudson Bay land S 1/2 8-46-8 and has expanded the farm to four and a half quarters. On August 15, 1953, he was married to June Dallow, second daughter of Ted and Edith Dallow. Don and June are the parents of six children.

Bernice was born August 29, 1954. She graduated from Irma High School in 1972. After graduating, she completed a secretarial course at Henderson's Business College in Edmonton and then worked for the Farm Credit Corporation for six years. On October 27, 1979, she was married to Wayne Schultz of New Sarepta and they now reside in Edmonton where Wayne is employed

JOE AND JEAN BURTON

in the construction industry. After marriage Bernice worked as a clerk at the Craft Shack and does part-time secretarial work. On July 7, 1983, a son, Nathan Wayne, was born and we became grandparents for the first time.

Edith was born September 21, 1955 and graduated from Irma High School in 1973. She also completed a secretarial course at Henderson's Business College. Edith worked for the John Howard Society, City Savings and Trust Company and for five years in the Planning Department for the City of Edmonton. On March 14, 1981, Edith married Philip Palmer of Edmonton. Edith continued working for the City of Edmonton until April 1984, when they moved to Ottawa, Ontario, where Phil is employed as a bricklayer.

Doug was born May 15, 1961 and graduated from Irma High School in 1979. After high school, he took a two year course in Telecommunications Technology at N.A.I.T. Edmonton. Since completion of his course, he has been employed by Alberta Government Telephones as an Equipment Installer.

Ken was born May 17, 1962 and graduated from Irma High School in 1980. Ken has worked at various jobs and is presently employed as a carpet layer for Carpet Rack, Wainwright, and is part-time farming.

Gail was born May 18, 1963 and graduated from Irma High School in 1981. She completed a Teller Training Course at P and L Teller Training School in July of 1980 in Edmonton. In December 1981, she was employed by the Bank of Montreal as teller. On August 6, 1983, Gail married Chris Oracheski of Irma. Gail is presently employed in Wainwright by the Bank of Montreal Commercial Banking Unit as a Commercial Loan's Clerk. Chris is farming with his family.

Derrick was born October 1, 1973 and is attending Irma School.

Don and June are still actively farming in the Irma area.

Joe Burton was born at Irma on February 4, 1914, attending Alma Mater School, later Irma High School. He went to Vermilion School of Agriculture graduating in 1932.

After completing school Joe returned to work on the farm with his father. Farming was done mainly with horses. There was always a lot of milking to be done but in spite of chores he managed to play with the Roseberry ball club in the summer and the Alma Mater hockey team in the winter, riding miles to play on rural rinks. He was a member of the local "Merry Maker" club.

In 1938 he purchased SE-12-46 and rented another quarter. In 1944 he married Jean Craig. They had three sons Bob, Bruce and Wayne.

Joe became a partner in Irma Sales and Services in 1950 and moved into Irma, this did not prove to be a successful venture so in 1952 he purchased three quarters of 4-46-8 in the Roseberry district. He farmed there for the next twenty-eight years, building up the farm taking the usual ups and downs of farming. The 1956 hailstorm wiped out every planted acre, in 1960 fire destroyed the barn and corrals. Joe was an active member of Farmer's Union, U.F.A. and North Irma Community Association.

In 1980 Joe and Jean retired to Irma leaving Wayne living on the home place and Bob on the Chris Burton farm. Joe spent the first winter of his "retirement" working on the new curling rink. He spends the rest of the year helping on the farm.

Bruce Burton graduated from Irma High School in 1965 and went to Calgary to take Structural Technology at SAIT and on completion of two years there he took two years apprenticeship in carpenter work to get his certificate. He worked for construction companies for a few years to gain experience before going into a partnership that worked under the name of "Burton Builders Ltd." In 1981 Bruce went on his own and works as a building contractor under the name "Irma Construction Ltd." Bruce has lived in Calgary for the past twenty years. He is married to Sharon Brown of Hussar, Alberta and they have two children Kathy and Craig.

ROY BURTON

Roy was born on May 12th, 1910 on the original homestead where he still resides. He started school in Irma in the building which is now the home of Robbie and Lynda Jones. Later on he attended Alma Mater school where he completed his education. He farmed with his father until 1932 when he and Chris started on their own, with four horses and a meagre line of machinery.

In 1943 he purchased his first tractor, a Pacemaker (Massey Harris). In April of that year the house burned down so he moved back home to help his father farm, as Don had joined the Air Force. Chris built a new house and continued to farm the land. For a time Gwen Neuman and her family lived with Chris and Gwen kept house for her brother. Chris passed away in March, 1978.

Roy recalls buying three weiner pigs for one dollar.



Joe and Jean Burton on their 40th Anniversary.

The following spring he sold two hundred and fifty pound pigs for four dollars. The same year he sold three two-year-old steers and one cow, all grain fed, for ninety-seven dollars. Today Roy's herd consists of two cows, a horse and twelve bantam chickens.

Roy stayed on the home farm after his parents moved to Vancouver. For a while Gwen kept house for Roy. Later on Mrs. Knowles kept house for him for over twenty years.

Roy was an active curler. Today he does most of his curling behind the glass in the waiting room, but he still enjoys the game. In summer Roy plays golf for recreation.



Chris Burton on his 70th birthday in 1978, and Roy.

WAYNE BURTON

Wayne graduated from high school in 1967 and went on to further his education at Vermilion School of Agriculture for the next two years. The next four winters Wayne worked in the Arctic for Schlumberger and farmed during the summer with his dad. When his parents retired in 1980, Wayne took over the operation of the farm.

Wayne married Wendy Greer of Wainwright in November of 1983 and they make their home on the farm.

MR. AND MRS. W.A. BURTON

Alf Burton was born in 1877 in Dunmow Essex, England. He apprenticed as a baker. In 1899 he came to Strathcona with the W. Rowe family and farmed with them in an area that is now part of the city of Edmonton. After four years of pioneer life they all decided to return to England.

In 1903 Alf married Edith Rowe and took up the bakery business again until ill health forced him to quit. They came back to Canada in 1905 and farmed some land and worked in the Strathcona area for a couple of years. They lived in a log shack chinked up with mud and cow manure.

Alf and neighbor, Mr. Williams, shipped the first carload of oats out of Edmonton.



Alf and Edie Burton in their flower garden in Vancouver.

In 1906 he filed on his homestead the N.W. 6-46-8-W4th and did some breaking, then went back to Edmonton for the winter. In the spring of 1907 Alf and Edie came to their homestead bringing with them enough lumber to build a shack. They lived in a tent for the first summer until the house was built. The closest town was Hardisty. Their worst fears were the prairie fires that burned for miles with no way of controlling them. All their buildings had to be well fireguarded. Oxen were used for field work and traveling around.

In 1908 Alf was employed as cook during the building of the railroad bridge at Fabyan. At this time Mrs. Burton and their first son, Jack, returned to England; while there, son Chris was born. They came back to Canada the following spring. Mrs. Burton used to talk about the time when Alf was away for supplies and she was left with two small children for several days; the loneliness was almost more than she could stand, no neighbors for miles.

The Burtons had nine children.

Jack was born in 1906 and died when he was nine. Chris farmed at Irma until his passing in 1978. Roy farmed and still lives on the original homestead. Dorothy died in 1930, at eighteen years of age. Joe married Jean Craig and farmed at Irma and has three sons, Bob, Bruce and Wayne. Marjorie (Mrs. Ted Thurston) has four children, Donald, Marjorie, Gordon and Aletha. Connie (Mrs. Frank Kellar) has four children, Una, Judy, Faye and Dale. Gwen (Mrs. Frank Newman) has five children, Ben, Chris, Dorothy, Barbara and Heather. Gwen and family lived with Chris for nine years following the death of her husband, she now resides in Edmonton. Don married June Dallow and has six children, Bernice, Edith, Douglas, Kenneth, Gail and Derrick. He also farms in the Irma area.

Alf was known for the miles he would walk always bareheaded, often walking to town or across country to the neighbors. He was very active in the Agriculture Fairs held in Irma, often acting as judge for the flower and vegetable entries. He served for many years on the

Municipal Council of Battle River, acting for a period as Reeve. He was also instrumental in the building of the Alma Mater school in 1918 and was a member of the school board for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton retired from farming in 1944 and moved to Vancouver. Alf spent most of his time in his flower garden growing many beautiful flowers, especially roses, with which he won many prizes. He lived there until his death in 1959 at the age of eighty-two. Mrs. Burton moved back to Wainwright and lived there until her passing in 1970 at ninety-one years.



Barn built by Matt Wold (Richard Glover now resides on old Cairns farm).

ALEX CAIRNS HISTORY

by Alex Cairns

We moved to Sec. 15-45-9 November 15, 1944 and stayed for twelve years, leaving in October 1956. We had four children when we moved to Irma and six when we left. We enjoyed the time we spent at Irma. The neighbors were friendly and we helped each other a lot. It was even funny that two Irishmen (Jim Jackson and myself) could live that close together and not get into at least one good fight. Jim Jackson was our closest neighbor. We always had a good crop by the end of June, but by the end of July it was usually cut to half. The land was sandy, but we usually got plenty of feed for the cattle. The cream cheque kept us eating. There were always picnics on Wednesday afternoons in the different districts, and we played ball, etc. and had a good time. I started curling with Jack McKay in the Farmers Spiel around the winter of 1950 and still enjoy the game. Our daughter Nellie is living on a farm at Wetaskiwin and has three children. Charles now lives on a farm at Armstrong, B.C. and has four children. George and wife live on a farm at Spirit River. Gordon lives at Edmonton and runs a large backhoe. He has two children. Lillian lives in Spirit River and has a family of four. Daniel farms at Spirit River also. Wilma and I are retired and live at Creston, B.C. and like it very much.

EDNA CAMPBELL

Edna, the eldest daughter of Marx and Elizabeth Jessman, was born while her parents lived in Leduc. Marx and Elizabeth moved to Vermilion while Edna was

quite small. Actually, the farm they moved to was south of Vermilion near Hindsville. One sister, Susan and several of her brothers were born while Marx and Elizabeth lived on that farm. Things were pretty rough on the farm as the hail destroyed most of their crops. Again they moved, this time to Halkirk where Edna and Susan helped on the farm also helping to raise their younger brothers. Times were tough so Susan and Edna went out to work as soon as their parents could manage without them. Edna worked out a few years, then she met Jack Campbell. Soon they were married in Stettler and moved to a farm near Byemoor, Alberta. They lived there seven years and Evelyn was born to them while they lived on that farm. Then they moved to a farm two miles east of Kinsella. Here they stayed a few years till they had the chance to rent Harvey Dennison's farm. They lived on this farm for quite a while and had better crops here. The next move was to take them to the Elliot farm for about ten years. This farm was not far from the Rodino Hall.

Now it was time for them to take things easier, so they moved to a farm across the road from Bert Armitage. Edna used to help Mary Armitage with the cooking and sewing.

Due to an accident, Edna was left alone, so she soon moved to Irma where she lived happily among friends in and around Irma, Viking, Kinsella, Batt and Rodino districts.

Some of her crochet work has gone to Scotland, England, U.S.A. and also to several distant Islands. She also does a lot of knitting as well as dressmaking and patching for neighbors. A hobby she likes best is making hope chests, fancy foot stools, covering chairs and chesterfields. She loves company and loves to play cards with friends and relatives.

HERB CAMPBELL

from memory of Ernie Rae

Herb Campbell came with a load of settler's effects from Hemingford, Quebec in 1908. He was a young single man, too young to take a homestead when he first came. When he was old enough, he homesteaded N.E. 30-47-9, now owned by Bert Smith.

To prove up a homestead in those days you paid ten dollars down and performed homestead rights, such as breaking ten acres a year for three years. He built a barn, dug a well, built a house and lived there six months out of a year.

Herb Campbell proved up the homestead, later sold it and rented Olaf Larson's place in the Coal Springs district. He married Queenie Cochrane, but had no children. He moved to Edmonton in 1919 and worked at the C.N.R. roundhouse in Calder. About a year later he bought a dray business which he operated for forty years.

Herb had many customers, but one Company he started to work for was Edmonton Furniture Exchange, owned by a Jewish family. He delivered for them for forty years, first with horses, then with an old 1926 Chevrolet truck. When he retired the company gave him a bonus of one thousand dollars and a turkey for Christmas as long as they lived. They both passed away about 1963.

MR. AND MRS. J.N. CARRINGTON

by Ruby MacMillan

Attracted by the vast land and opportunities, Joseph N. Carrington first visited Canada in 1908. In 1912 he returned to Manitoba where he worked and met his wife Mary, or May as she was called. They came to Edmonton to obtain land for their homestead, eleven miles northeast of Irma - N.E. 1/4 20-46-8-W4th. In isolation there, it was a great delight when, coming from his sod shelter one mile away, John Sawden followed tracks in the snow leading him to the Carrington farm. Long trips of twenty-five miles to obtain flour, required more than a day's ride with a team of horses.

Following the birth of four children: Earl, Marion, Mildred and Ruby, a fire destroyed their cabin in 1924. Soon a new house was built. Mr. and Mrs. Carrington worked proudly, as many pioneers did, to educate their children, and to progress from flat irons, heaters and lanterns to a Model T Ford, a furnace, and an Aladdin lamp. Mr. Carrington served as a trustee on the Avonglen School Board, Mrs. Carrington was a member of the Ladies Aid, and they were members of the United Church, attending services at Avonglen and Alma Mater.

Mr. and Mrs. Carrington retired to Vancouver in 1944, but returned for a few visits to Irma, as well as taking an overseas trip to Great Britain in 1955.

Earl worked at the farm with his father before he and his wife, Hilda, nee Kennedy, and two children, Patricia and Kenneth, went to Vancouver where their third child, Lorraine, was added to the family. Marion married Arthur Knudson and they continued to live in Irma and work in the post office for several years before going with their two boys, Cyril and Roy, to live in Vancouver, B.C.

Mildred left Irma in 1941 for a teaching career and is now residing in Edmonton. Ruby married Neil MacMillan and raised four children, Elaine, Cheryl, Karen and Blaine. Ruby, whose husband, infant daughter, parents and brother are deceased, lives with her son, Blaine, on the MacMillan family farm.

THE ARTHUR CARTER STORY

Arthur Carter was born in England and came to Canada in 1913. He spent a year working in Ontario then came to Alberta. He worked on a farm for awhile, later filing on a homestead in the Jarrow district.

In 1916 he enlisted in the Army and served overseas. He fought in the trenches in France until he was wounded in 1918. He was hospitalized in England for some time. Before returning to Canada, he married Emily Baker, a girl he'd known before ever leaving England.

They came to the Jarrow district where they farmed for six years. These were hard years for a girl who had never lived away from street lights and a house next door. Their three oldest daughters were all born at home with a neighbour lady in attendance. When the opportunity arose in 1925, they returned to England and Mr. Carter farmed there with his father and brothers for four years. While in England their fourth daughter, Shirley, arrived.

In 1929 they decided they preferred the wide open spaces of Alberta, so they moved back to the Jarrow

area. They once again farmed north of Jarrow, during which time another daughter, Yvonne, was added to the family.

In 1933 they bought a farm southwest of Jarrow, situated N.W. 36-45-11 in the Metropolitan area. A son, Harold, arrived to complete their family. More land was purchased as it became available and mixed farming became their way of life.

In the early years, while living north of Jarrow, Mr. Carter served as councillor for the Kinsella Municipality. He was trustee for the Metropolitan School for several years.

Mrs. Carter was a lifetime member of the Anglican Church, a charter member of the Metropolitan Club and a member of the Kinsella Women's Institute. Her favorite hobbies were sewing and gardening.

In 1960 Mr. and Mrs. Carter moved to Kinsella where they resided until retiring to Vialta Lodge in 1974. Mr. Carter passed away in 1975 following a brief illness, Mrs. Carter passed away in 1978.

During World War II, their daughter, Audry served with the Canadian Air Force, and daughter Betty, served with the Canadian Army.



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Carter on their 50th Anniversary: Mr. and Mrs. Raddatz (Audrey); Mr. and Mrs. Mike Rawluk (Shirley); Mr. and Mrs. George Rawluk (Yvonne); Harold and Maxine Carter; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Oakes (Betty); Mr. and Mrs. William Rawluk (Muriel).

Audry married Emerson Raddatz of Ontario. They lived in Arnprior, Ontario, where they have raised their family of six children. Their oldest son, Arthur was killed in an accident while doing mission work in the Dominican Republic. Elaine works in Toronto, Jim is a veterinarian in Aylmer, Ontario, Bruce teaches school in Calgary, Ruth (Mrs. Smith) lives in Ottawa and Bill is in College.

Betty married Tommy Oakes and they live in Kinsella. Muriel, Shirley and Yvonne married Rawluks and are included in the Rawluk history.

Harold married Maxine Leslie of Sedgewick. They purchased the family farm when Mr. Arthur Carter retired in 1960 and have lived there ever since. They have a family of eight: Paul, Laura, John, Marian, Dianne, Nancy, Ellen and Kathleen.



Family of May and Eugene Carter, 1936. Clarence, Allison, May, Collin and Keith. In Front: Ernest and Eugene.

EUGENE CARTER

by May Carter

Eugene William Carter, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Carter of Debut, Nova Scotia, came to Western Canada the fall of 1910 and for a year worked in a hardware store in Davidson, Saskatchewan. From there he went to Medicine Hat where he drove a team of mules on a road grading slip, building railroad beds. He moved later to the Irma district making his home with his cousins, Mr. and Mrs. T. Hill, Sr. while filing on the N.E. of 10-45-8, building a small shack, while completing his homesteading duties. Then the First World War began. After making a trip back home to visit his brother and sister, he came back and in 1915 enlisted in the 151st Battalion stationed at Wainwright. He was transferred to the Sarcee Military Base near Calgary for further training but when the Battalion left for overseas, he was left behind. He resumed his work at his homestead and in the winter worked at the Co-op store in Irma. He sold his homestead and began payments on the C.P.R.'s S.E. quarter 23-45-8 in the Crescent Hill School District, built a small house and started to break the land. In the meantime he was also doing the farm work for Mr. J. McKnight. In June of 1919 he married May Fenton, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Fenton of Irma. The winter of 1919-20 was a hard winter on stock and only half of the cattle and horses survived. It was at this point that the Carters gave up farming for themselves but worked for several farmers in the Irma district and for two years in Sintaluta, Saskatchewan. They returned to Irma where "Gene" as his friends called him, worked at several jobs in and around Irma. This included driving a team, helping with the construction of Highway 14 west of Irma, working with H.W. Love in the honey business and learning the principles of editing for the "Irma Times" which he did for some sixteen years. Along the way he worked odd hours for P.J. Hardy in the lumberyard unloading carloads of coal with just a shovel and a wheelbarrow at forty cents a ton. In 1932 he accepted a position with the Irma Town Council as Secretary-

treasurer which involved the care of the town office, the fire engine and town water system. He also sold car and drivers' licenses and dog licenses and of course, marriage licenses. After hours he worked as caretaker of the Irma two-room school, the United Church, what was then Keifer's Theatre, and finally the business of the Irma Treasury Branch.

This all ended when Mr. and Mrs. Carter and their two youngest sons moved to Wainwright to manage and care for the High School Dormitory from August, 1946 to July, 1951. From then until retirement Eugene did the bookkeeping for the Army Camp, the caretaking at Grace United Church, and kept two small sets of books in town.

Eugene passed away after a short illness in January, 1977 and was buried in the family plot in the Irma Cemetery.

To the marriage of Eugene Carter and May Fenton came five sons, namely: Clarence, Allison, Ernest, Keith and Colin. Keith passed away at the age of three and one half years. The remaining four sons completed their high school -- Clarence, Allison and Ernest at Irma and Colin graduated from Wainwright.

Shortly after Clarence completed his grade twelve, the Second World War broke out, so he enlisted in the Air Force almost at once. Allison enlisted six months later after reaching his eighteenth birthday. After serving a year as a Link Trainer Instructor, Clarence went overseas with the City of Edmonton Squadron and served until the end of the war. On his return he settled in Vancouver, B.C. working for Tip Top Tailors. He later transferred to Edmonton with his wife, Ella, and son, John, to assume the managerial position at the new Tip Top store in the Westmount Shopping Centre. He belonged to the Legion and spent many years working for boys through a Service Club, for which he received a special citation following his passing. Clarence or "Nick" as his Edmonton friends knew him, changed allegiance and began working for Mr. Big and Tall where he worked until his sudden passing on September 1st, 1978. His wife pre-deceased him six years previously, just two months short of their silver anniversary. His family of son, John, and daughter, Jeannie, live in Calgary. John and Anna have one son and John works as a radio announcer for C.F.C.N. Jeannie is employed by an Oil Company.

Allison went to the city after returning from the Air Force and started as a junior clerk for Tip Top Tailors and rose to the top position of supervisor of the eight Edmonton stores -- a span of nearly thirty-two years. He passed away suddenly at the age of fifty-five years. His wife Stephanian and son, Stephen, live in Edmonton. Stephen is married to Lori and he teaches high school at Fort Saskatchewan. James, the eldest son, has lived in Champaign, Illinois for some three or more years where he has completed his Ph.D. in Computer Science. He was married in October, 1981 to Nancy.

After completing his high school, the third son, Ernest, went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton for one year, hoping to study Medicine, but it was not so easy to finance in those days, so he was forced to make a second choice and started with Imperial Oil. He has worked for the company for over thirty years. He and his wife, Pearl,

and two sons, Douglas and Robert, made their home in Edmonton, where the boys completed high school and went on to N.A.I.T. for further studies. Douglas is manager of the Tip Top Tailors store at Fort McMurray and married to Fiona, while Robert works for Pool Construction and has kept the home fires burning since his dad was transferred to Toronto by Imperial Oil three years ago.

Colin, the youngest son, after completing his high school in Wainwright, went to Edmonton where he articulated with Winspear, Hamilton, Anderson & Company, Chartered Accountants. After five years' experience he left to work as an accountant and in 1965 graduated with an R.I.A. He is now the chief financial officer of the Edmonton General Hospital. He and his wife, Darlene, have two daughters: Colleen, who has just completed her second year as a student nurse, and Kelly Anne, who just graduated from high school and is planning a degree program at the University of Alberta in Sciences this fall.

All four boys were keen athletes and excelled in basketball, hockey and track and field, having several medals to show for it. The boys' father was a long-distance runner as a young man. He also belonged to the Canadian Order of Forresters and the Canadian Legion. He and Mrs. Carter were both very active in the United Church. As well, Mrs. Carter has just received her special award -- a 50 year pin as a member of the Ladies' Orange Lodge, starting as a Charter Member in Irma and going in to the highest office that of Grand Mistress for Alberta. She now resides in Suite 102, Aspen Heights, Wainwright.

HARRY CARTER FAMILY

by Frank Carter

My mother and father, Henry and Sarah Ann Carter, and five children, Harry, Nellie, James, Frank, (myself) and John immigrated to Canada from Lancashire, England in 1925, under the Soldier Settlement Plan, settling on a farm five miles northeast of Irma known as the Walker Place and Harper Place. This land, the S.E. 12-46-9-W4th, was in the Alma Mater school district and is now owned by Joe Burton. They also rented land known as the Hammond quarter and later on Section 5 owned by the late Andrew Fuscko.

Our first night in Irma was spent at a cafe and rooms operated by Mr. and Mrs. Pryce Jones. Sid Johnson, owner of the general store, had breakfast with us the next morning, and then we were driven out to the farm in a Ford Touring car by Mr. George Clark from Wainwright, agent for the Soldier Settlement Board. We had one bed, a stove, table and four chairs which were already in the house, pots, pans and dishes, and a few household things were in crates we had shipped with us. I had never seen a stove before, and water came from the slough.

Two months later tragedy struck. John was kicked by a horse on the McCartney farm where my father and Jimmy were working. John died a month later in the Viking hospital.

I attended Alma Mater school for two years, being



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Carter at the old house and their first crop in 1925.

taught by Mrs. McDowell from Irma, and a Mr. Wilson, quite a change from a large English school.

On February 5th, 1926 Earl was born (named Earl William Russel; Earl after Earl Goodale; William after William Dootson, my mother's brother, who came to Canada in 1929 from Yorkshire, England, and later married Adelaide Elliott; and Russel after Russel Williamson.) Harry was well known around Irma for his piano playing at the school dances. We sure had some good times. Harry also played the organ at church services.

As the boys grew up they worked for various people. Nellie married Bert (Slim) Breckenridge in October, 1932 and lived on the Newberry farm, now owned by Bob Burton. Two of their children, Johnny and Nancy, were born in Irma.

In December, 1934, Jimmy married Irene Bess of Jenner, Alberta. They first lived in the McDowell house in the vicinity of the present arena. Jimmy became the rural mailman with three routes, number one and two north, and number three route south of Irma. If Jim was busy harvesting or other work, Irene would load their four children, Shirley, Doris, Richard and Robert, into the car and deliver the mail. For some time they lived in a small house later bought and enlarged by Obert Lovig. Come wartime, Jim joined the R.C.A.F. He was moved to Mossbank, Saskatchewan, where his family joined him.

In 1939 the elder Carters, Henry, Earl and the Breckenridges had moved to Surrey, B.C. After the war ended Jim decided to make a home at the coast. Irene drove with the four children from Mossbank to join him. In October a daughter, Frances Ann, was added to their family. Jim went into the garage business. Jim died in 1974 in Mission Hospital.

Nellie and Bert have four children. They live at Lumby, B.C.

Frank married Vida Hart, a girl from Taber, after moving from Irma in 1935. Frank and Vida have two children and now live at Lake Erroek, B.C.

Earl married a Surrey girl, Pat Aiken. They have five children and live at Princeton, B.C.

Harry Carter died in 1958 at the age of 73. Mrs. Carter died in 1966 at age of 80. Harry Jr. and wife have also

passed on.

We all have memories of the good times we had in Irma. The Alma Mater Merrymakers, the plays we put on, the dances, card parties, picnics and so on.



Taken the day of John Carter's funeral. Back Row: George Hiperson and Harry Carter. Front Row: Earl Goodale, Frank Carter, James Carter and Irvine Goodale - 1925.

KENNETH AND HARRY CARTER

by Vivienne Carter

My father, Kenneth Charles Carter, homesteaded in Mortlach, Saskatchewan in 1903 for two years. He then went back to England and in 1909 returned to Jarrow with his brother Harry Carter. When war broke out in 1914, he joined the Canadian Army, enlisting in Winnipeg and went overseas, where he met and married Hilda Young from London, England. Their first child, Ruby, was born during a Zeppelin raid over that city two years later. After the end of the war my parents and Ruby sailed to Canada, arriving July 1st, 1919. Ruby had her third birthday a month later.

During that time Harry Carter had bought a farm south of Jarrow. My parents bought a farm north of Jarrow and worked very hard. It was my mother's introduction to farm life and I doubt that she had ever seen a cow or a horse before, so it was not easy. She had ridden a camel through much of Egypt as a young woman, so maybe that helped, but she coped extremely well and soon learned to do everything. I, Vivienne, arrived one year later - this too was a big task for Mom, as I came into the world with mild cerebral palsy, not severe but enough to be quite a handful for her. Our brother, Anthony, arrived sixteen months later, but unfortunately was taken at three days of age. Over the next few years Victor, Marcelle and Colin completed the family.

Schooling was difficult indeed, as we lived two and a half miles from Batt school, and I never did learn to ride a horse. Ruby drove a horse and cutter in the winter and a horse and buggy in the summer. Victor looked after the heating and janitor chores for Batt school while attending. After school Ruby attended a hairdressing school in Edmonton and worked in that field before marrying. Vic, Marcelle and Colin had lovely little

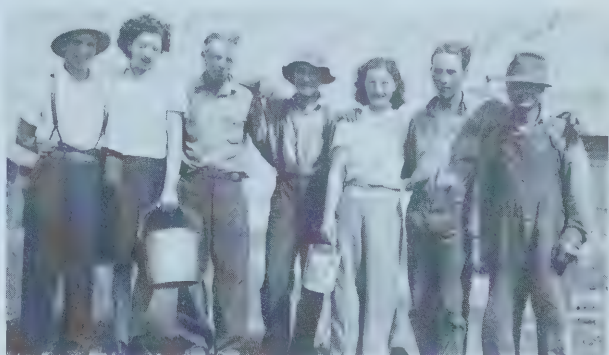


Ready to go to Olaf Lovig's funeral. Vergil Michael, Harry Meakins, Ken Carter, Carrie Michael, Lil Lingley, Buster Lingley, Terry Meakins.

shetland ponies, and our neighbors were most kind in giving me rides. I will always remember them with gratitude. My first grade teacher was Darrel Peterson, who was a kind and passionate soul. Others include Mrs. George Theroux, Miss Irene Ross and Miss Nan Kennedy. Another dear lady who contributed much with her gentleness and kindness and wisdom was Mabel Holt, although I was never one of her students.

My mother and we children moved to Edmonton in 1939 where she worked very hard to get her three younger ones through school. Unfortunately we had to part with her in 1969. Our father stayed on his farm in Jarrow and passed away in 1980.

Ruby is presently living in Gibsons, B.C. Her son, Bill Matthew and his wife, Jan, make their home in Edmonton with their two children, Wade and Brenda. Wade is apprenticing in welding and Brenda plans to start into nursing. Ruby's daughter, Carole Jones, and her husband, George, also live in Edmonton with four children, Robert, David, Stacey and Brian. Robert is in his second year of Engineering at University, and of course the other three are still in school. Ruby remarried but her husband has since passed on.



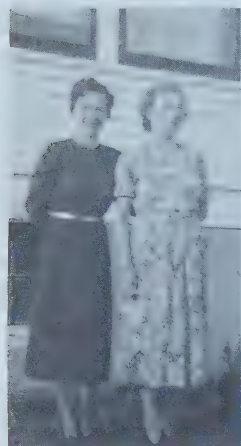
Gordon and Joan Meakins, Buster Lingley, Victor Carter, Lil Lingley, Colin Carter, Harry Meakins, going picking berries.

My brother, Victor, has farmed in the Irma district all his life and is very active in chariot racing. My sister, Marcelle Bailey lives in California with husband Bill and they have four children, Mark, Stephen, David and Michelle.

My brother, Colin and his wife, Faye, live in Edmonton and have two daughters, Colette and Janette. Colette is a travel agent and Janette is a dental assistant.

Our Uncle Harry's daughter, Janet, lives in Jasper. She married Jim Heckley who is now deceased. Their son Ramsay Heckley and wife Avis and four children also live in Jasper. Her daughter, Primrose, and husband, Roger, have three children and make their home in Edmonton.

Unfortunately I never married but my nieces and nephews are very special to me. I have baby-sat for dozens of little ones over a span of about forty years. I have happy memories attending many of their weddings and in turn have been very excited in welcoming a new generation.



Mrs. Ken Carter and Vivi.



Harry Carter

FRED CHALLIS

Fred Challis first homesteaded in the Roseberry district but moved to the Ross district around 1915. He purchased the Gale quarter S.E. 28-46-9 now owned by George Fischer. Fred was a quiet-spoken man. Fred never married but took part in the community. He was a councillor for several years and a member of the Ross school board. He lived on the farm until his death in 1940.

THE CHARTER FAMILY

by Bob Charter

Arthur Charles Charter was born at Croydon, England on February 4th, 1893 and Evelina Jessie Charter at Portsmouth, England on June 26th of the same year. They were united in marriage April 11th, 1915 at Brougham Road United Methodist Church, Portsmouth.

For several years they operated two hardware stores in that city which they combined with a coal delivery



Tom Yarr, Mrs. Charter, Mr. Charter, Harry Riley at Charter farm about 1938.

business. During the First World War Mr. Charter served in France with the Imperial Army, while Mrs. Charter carried on the family business. In 1919 their eldest son, Arthur (Bob) was born and two years later their second son, Phil, completed the family.

In 1926 they disposed of their business interests and immigrated to Canada where they settled on a farm one and one-half miles northwest of Irma. Shortly after their arrival, they started a herd of dairy cattle and supplied the village with milk and cream for a number of years. Mr. Charter was the first manager of Alberta Treasury Branch in Irma.

In 1947 they moved into town where Mr. Charter became village secretary, a position he held for the next fifteen years. He was a life member of the Canadian Legion and for many years served as treasurer for the Irma United Church. He died in 1970 following a severe stroke.

Mrs. Charter survived her husband for thirteen years, residing for ten of those years in Battle River Lodge. Her final years were spent in the Auxiliary Hospital in Wainwright where she passed away on December 11th, 1983 at ninety years of age.

Besides their sons, Arthur, who now makes his home in London, Ontario, and Phil, who resides in Vancouver, they had seven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

ORVILLE CHASE

by Marjorie (Chase) Oracheski

Orville Chase came to the Irma district with his parents as a child in 1906. His parents, Elthon and Martha Chase, and his uncle Charles Swailes obtained homesteads. Mr. Chase drove to Hardisty with an ox team and buggy to bring mail and supplies for Charles Swailes' store before the railway came through Irma. Poor health forced Orville's parents to return to Michigan in 1912. Orville and his cousin Edgar Swailes remained in the west for a year to prove up the homesteads. They lived on each place for six months and

drove or rode horseback to Sunny Brae school. Orville's parents decided they would not be returning, as their health was failing and also their daughter Jenny was not well. She had married Charles McKillop who had homesteaded next to the Chases, south of Irma.

Orville returned to Michigan also to be near his family. By 1919 his parents and sister Jenny, and his brother-in-law Charles McKillop had all passed away. Orville found he was guardian of his small nephew Murray McKillop. He decided to return to Canada to the family homestead which he had inherited. Orville farmed his land, plus his nephew Murray's inheritance, and later bought the Beauty place just east of Strawberry Plains school.

While in Michigan Orville became a member of the Masonic Lodge, and when coming west he kept up his membership by travelling to Jarrow to lodge meetings before Irma Gratton Lodge was instituted. When Gratton Lodge was organized, he became the first Worshipful Master.

On December 15th, 1926 Orville married Mildred Allen of Irma, and they left on an extended honeymoon to Michigan to visit Orville's brother Willard and his family, and numerous other relatives. When they returned in the spring, Orville's nephew Murray McKillop returned with them. He was in his early teens and he attended Strawberry Plains school.

On June 3rd, 1929 Marjorie was born to Orville and Mildred, and on July 26th of that year Orville was killed in a tragic truck-train accident. Murray returned to Michigan with his Uncle Willard after Orville's death, where he remained until he passed away in 1958. He kept in contact with his Canadian cousin and was back to visit twice.

Mildred decided to remain on the farm after Orville's death and with the help of her brother, Lloyd Allen, they farmed until 1944 when Lloyd's failing health made it necessary for them to rent, and later to sell the land to Harry Long. In 1945 Mildred, Lloyd, and Marjorie moved into Irma. Mildred went back to teaching school at Sunny Brae. She travelled back and forth with Olive Sather who was teaching at Crescent Hill school. When

school consolidation came into being, Mildred taught in Irma. When the new school was built she taught grade three until December of 1955 when a lengthy illness forced her to retire. She passed away in May of 1956. Marjorie attended high school in Irma and then the University of Manitoba from 1948 to 1951. In November of 1951 she married Mike Orcheski of Jarrow and moved to their farm north of Jarrow.



Orville Chase and Father and Mother (Elthon and Martha).

GUS CHRISTANSON

by Bill Patterson

Gus Christanson, a bachelor and veteran of World War One, lived two miles east of us on N.W. 27-46-8-W4th. His bachelor's shack still stands, I saw it last summer. Gus decided to move into the automobile age about 1925 or 1926 so bought a Model T. He couldn't drive but had Howard Oldham drive for him and also to teach him, but Gus never did fathom the working of the old Model T. He could get along fine until he tried to stop and then he would just tramp on the pedals and the car, in low gear, just kept going. Realizing his problem he left the car at Oldhams and walked down there when he wished to go for a lesson. Coming home one day he drove through Oldham's wooden gate and stalled in the yard; more lessons were needed! Finally he improved until he could stop as well as start so it was time to take the car home.

Unfortunately he always had Howard with him, but when he arrived home he was alone. He pressed on the pedals and on he went through the gate at the road, across the barnyard and through the gate into the field. Here he drove around trying to stop the car with no luck. As he finally gave way in desperation he turned out into his summerfallow and stalled the car in the soft ground. Howard had to come down and drive the car out. Shortly after, Gus gave up and sold his Model T.

In later years Gus lived in a Veteran's home in Edmonton. Finally his eyesight failed until he became totally blind.



Marjorie and Mildred Chase - 1948.

JIM CHRISTENSEN FAMILY

Jim Christensen, the youngest of four children, was born in St. Paul, Alberta, and later moved to Innisfree, Alberta where the family farmed.

Evelyn, one of seven children, was born in Mannville, Alberta and grew up on a farm near Minburn, Alberta.

Jim and Evelyn married in 1948 and lived in the Minburn area, where Sharon and Vance were born. Jim began a life long career with Northwestern Utilities Limited on June 4th, 1951, first in the Viking area and then in 1953 was transferred to Irma, where he moved his family. While living in Irma they had four more sons, Wayne, Dale, Allan and Lyle.

The first few years they lived in Irma, Jim and Evelyn both enjoyed curling. Later when the boys started playing hockey, Jimmy got involved as a Pee Wee coach for five years.

All six children took their schooling in Irma, with five of them having Mrs. Fischer for their grade one teacher. There were Christensen children in the Irma school for twenty-four consecutive years.

Vance and Sharon graduated together in 1967, with Sharon going to Edmonton to take a Nursing Aide Course. She then worked on the "burn" ward of the U. of A. hospital. Sharon married Ben Giles and they have since resided in Innisfail. They have two sons, Bradley, ten and Jimmy, seven.

Vance worked in southern Alberta for four years before moving to Edmonton. In 1973 Vance and Ken Hardy spent the best part of a year travelling Europe by van. Upon returning to Edmonton, Vance became employed as an insulator. He has worked in the Edmonton and Fort McMurray area as a journeyman insulator and has just transferred to Red Deer.

After graduating Wayne was employed with Dixon Coffee Co. in Edmonton, then apprenticed as an electrician. Wayne married Cathy Kinsley in 1977 and they now have two children, Jennifer and Kyle. Wayne is employed in Fort Saskatchewan as a journeyman electrician and in his spare time is building a natural log home, on an acreage south of Fort Saskatchewan, having cut, hauled and peeled the logs himself.

Dale graduated, then apprenticed as an electrician in Edmonton. In 1981 Dale married Beverly Bell of Irma. They have one son, Ryan. Dale is presently employed at Fort Saskatchewan as a journeyman electrician. They reside at Bruderheim now, but have just bought an acreage near Ardrossan and will be building there next summer.

Allan graduated, then went to Edmonton and began his electrician apprenticeship, presently in his fourth year. After his schooling in Irma, Lyle had various jobs in Edmonton, before entering the insulators apprenticeship. He is now employed at Fort McMurray. Both Allan and Lyle went on the "High School Tour" to Europe. It was a trip with their schoolmates that they will remember for years.

Jim was promoted in July, 1966 to sub-foreman of N.W.U.

In the most recent years since all their children have moved from home, Jim and Evelyn have enjoyed



Vance, Jim, Evelyn, Dale, Lyle, Wayne, Allan and Sharon Christensen.

travelling. Their most memorable trip was one to Scotland in 1981, when Evelyn got to know her first cousins, all of whom she had never met before. They correspond regularly now and hope to get together again.

With all the sons and grandsons, we are sure the Christensen name will be carried on for years.

ARNOLD CHRISTENSON

by Avis Johnston

My father, Arnold Christenson and my mother, Edith Beatrice McCune were married in Edmonton on December 24th, 1915.

I, Avis Johnston, was born December 3rd, 1916. My brother, Elvin was born November 18th, 1918.

Our parents farmed until the late summer of 1918 when they sold their herd of cows and bought a dray and livery service in Jarrow. Jarrow was a thriving little town with two general stores. Coopers lived above their store and the Holloways lived in the west half of the big building from which their business was operated. Yang Lee's Cafe and hotel was next door west. Across the street west was Harold MacDougall's garage and house situated at the bottom of our great coasting hill. Even the adults had fun on it. When I see Jarrow now, the hill is so small I think someone must have cut the top off.

On the north side of Main Street from west to east was Mr. Lovig's blacksmith shop, the poolroom, barbershop with the Masonic Lodge upstairs, then the lumberyard, the post office and creamery depot. Directly south across the street was the Royal Bank and the small building Mr. Nels Lindholm did business in; he lived at the back.

Jarrow had a church with the manse next door. Mr. Smith was the minister in the early twenties followed by Mr. Cantelon.

The one room schoolteachers taught all grades. The teachers lived with us. The ones I remember are: Miss McNeill, Anna Watt, Daisy Johnson and Mary McKay.

C.Z. Nichols was the station agent and to the west were three grain elevators and a busy stockyard.

Dad was always active in local affairs. He was a councillor for the municipal district. Others serving at the same time were Blake Green, Fay Pendelton, Albert

CHRISTOPHER CHRISTENSON FAMILY

by Eunice (Satre) Gulbraa

In 1881, against the wishes of their parents, Christopher and Maren Skogen left their home in Norway for a new land and a new life, never to return. They with their infant daughter, Anna, settled in Deuel County, two miles north of Toronto, South Dakota, U.S.A. They, as so many newcomers did, changed their names - using the father's christian name and adding "son" - thus the family name of Christenson. They raised a family of eight children: three daughters and five sons.

With land becoming very scarce and with sons who wanted to farm, Christopher decided to take up the challenge and go to the Great North West. He, with sons Hans and John, boarded the Land Seekers Train in 1903 arriving at Bawlf where Maren's brothers were. After finding land, Hans and John stayed to "Prove Up" while Christopher returned to the States to sell his land and prepare for the move north. It wasn't until 1906, with settler effects including the family dog, that they were able to get back and only to discover that someone else had gotten his land because he had been gone too long. Later that year they found land at Irma.

That first winter was very cold and a lot of snow so they had a terrible time trying to keep warm in their tarpaper shack. Maren often told how her tears froze as she cried herself to sleep. She could see the stars through cracks in the roof.

In the spring of 1907 they moved to Irma and took up their homestead on the S.E. 12-46-9-W4th. Son Ole had the N.E. 12-46-9-W4th which was later sold to his dad. Hilma, the youngest daughter, only seven years old, would play with Isabel and Gladys Larson, children of Olaf and Jenny Larson, so Christopher plowed a furrow over to Larsons for Hilma to follow so she wouldn't get lost.

Sedgewick was the nearest town and many times people would get lost going across country. Occasionally voices could be heard calling so someone would go out and swing a lantern to beckon the people to their home. As at most homes, the coffee pot was always hot and many times both the men and their horses were looked after for the night.



Christopher and Maren Christenson about 1897.



Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Christenson, Dec. 24, 1915.

Firkus, Arthur Carter and Elmer Erickson. I'm sure there were more I can't recall. Dad served on the board of the Viking hospital for years.

In 1928 we moved to a farm three miles south of Jarrow. Times were getting tough and the farm was a good place to be. Then the rains ceased and the dust storms started. Times were tough for everyone. I remember eggs being sold at three cents a dozen. We ate lots of angel food cake.

Dad became a grain buyer for Alberta Pacific in 1935 and in 1936 Elvin, Mother and I went to Edmonton so Elvin could complete his education and I continued to study music. Mother ran a boardinghouse 'til 1941 when she returned to resume life with Dad who was then buying grain in Lougheed. A transfer took them back to Jarrow for a few years and then to Fabyan. Dad retired from the grain business in 1951 because of poor health. They have lived in Edmonton ever since.

I married Wreford Johnston and we have two children. Our daughter, Perry, lives in Edmonton and our son, Arvin, in Calgary.

Elvin retired from chartered accountancy last year and is enjoying the time he has to share with Halina and his two youngest children, Eric and Karyn. He has three older children. Marnie Shearer and two grandchildren are in Calgary. Lynne and Richard Clayton and wee Laura are in Edmonton. Dwight is in Stony Plain.

Dad is ninety-two years old and is a patient in the Good Samaritan Hospital. Mother, who is eighty-nine, resides at Pleasantview Lodge.

Mr. Christenson passed away March, 1985

A hallway is a place to remember the things you left in the room.

With all the natural prairie wool, the mosquitoes were almost unbearable. Both man and beast had to be protected while out working and smudges were a common sight in the barnyards at night. Prairie fires took many homes and lots of feed stacks.

Water was their next concern, so Christopher and Hans bought a well-drilling rig from Olaf Iverson of Bawlf (father to Byron and Elmer Iverson of Wainwright). This was brought to Irma by wagons in the winter. Christopher was afraid the dynamite would explode while travelling over the rough frozen roads, so the trip was very slow and careful. This machine, run by a Galloway twelve horsepower engine, drilled many of the first wells in the Irma-Wainwright area, and the first well drilled in the Wainwright Buffalo Park. A tinsmith in Killam made galvanized well casings. Hans told about being chased in his old Model T car by buffalo when he drilled that well. He said the buffalo could run almost as fast as the car could go and he was afraid he might run out of gas before they would get tired.

The Christensons were great horse lovers and at one time travelled a black Percheron stallion named "Colonel". Hilma told her children how upset her father was when she cut out the pretty gold seal in the corner of Colonel's registered papers. At one time Carl had the livery barn in Irma, Arnold in Jarrow, Ole in Kinsella and John in Holden.

The Christenson's home served as the church for years and it was on November 13th, 1910 the organizational meeting for Sharon congregation was held. The minister Rev. Hjortaas, came from Ryley once a month.

Mr. Christenson died in 1924 at the age of seventy years. Mrs. Christenson, while attending the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary party for Vernon and Arlene Peterson in November, 1940, fell on the ice and broke her hip and died in January, 1941, at the age of eighty-five years.

The family multiplied through the years leaving many descendants. Anna married John Reitan in the U.S. and with a family of seven moved to Canada in 1929. Their children were: Oscar; Marvin; Ida (Mrs. Martin Westley); Arthur, who died in infancy; Alvina (Mrs. Cliff Bruneau and later Mrs. Archie Moulder); Irvine; and Kenneth.

John married Stella Kadlek, a sister to Mrs. Sharkey, in Irma. To this union seven children were born: Hazel, Marvin and Stella died in infancy; Ernest died at eleven years; Roy, Angeline and Silva. When their mother died, Angeline and Silva lived with Grandma Christenson while Roy lived with his uncle Frank Kadlek at Wetaskiwin. In later years John married Mary Johnson who had two sons Fritz (Albert) and George. In 1935 a daughter Joyce arrived to complete their family.

Hans never married. He looked after his mother for many years and then lived alone after Mom died. The last ten years of his life were spent with his niece and family, Eunice and Carl Gulbraa.

Marie married Ray Fuder and their children were Myrtle and Clifford. These have all since passed away.

Ole married Dona Hart and had one daughter, Audrey, (Mrs. Marshall Burns).

Arnold married Edith McCune and their children were



Christopher and Maren (Hanson) Christenson. Back: Hans, Anna, Karen, John and Marie, Ole, Arnold and Carl.

Avis (Mrs. Ulreford Johnston) and Elvin.

Carl's first wife was Mabel MacDonald and later Emilie Thompson. They had seven children: Ruth, Caroline, Ronald, Donald, Marnie, Kenneth and Shirley.

Hilma married Ludvig Satre and their four children were Curtis, Eunice (Mrs. Carl Gulbraa), Lorraine who died at twenty-one months, and Avis (Mrs. Willard Shaw).

The number of relatives grows each year but Arnold Christenson, at the age of ninety-two years September 12th, 1983, is the only living member of the Christenson family.

In 1981 six of the nieces and nephews got together to discuss the possibilities of forming a society and getting a grant from the government to assist in the writing of a family history and preserving other artifacts. This was followed by much research and we now have our society registered and a grant was received. Our title is "The Skogen Social and Historical Society of Alberta". We have our own crest, drawn up by grandson Kenneth Reitan, and made into pins, sew-on crests and caps. We have had two family gatherings with well over one hundred people present at each, with some coming from as far as Miami, Florida, and a "Book of Remembrance" with statistics and pictures of each member of the family. Each year there are additional pages added. We have a membership fee of five dollars a year to help cover costs incurred at the family gathering and we are hoping to get more information from the archives in Oslo, Norway. We highly recommend having a family project like this.



Christenson Farm.



Maren Christenson front row second from left. Her sons back row - Carl, Arnold, Hans, Ole, John. Daughters, Anna Reitan, Hilma Satre, Marie Fuder in 1936.

J.A. (JACKIE) CHRISTENSON

I arrived in Irma in January, 1972 as postmistress, accompanied by my daughter Kelly. A few days later our belongings arrived from Rycroft, and we were soon settled comfortably across the street from the Post Office. We were to spend two enjoyable years in Irma, during which time I was a member of the Irma United Church, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, did some curling and some golfing. Kelly went to school and belonged to 4-H. People made us feel welcome and at home: I especially remember "coffee time" at Jim Pond's cafe.

In 1974 we left Irma for the Post Office in Sedgewick, where eventually I would become Mrs. George Christenson.

OLE AND DONA CHRISTENSON

by Audrey Burns

My parents, Ole and Dona Christenson, were married December 26, 1916. They bought land from Harry Haugen. After a couple of years they sold this land to Mr. Stouffer and moved to Kinsella.

While they lived there, Dad ran the livery barn. He hauled freight from the C.N.R. and sometimes ran the water tower.

They built a new house - the one next to John Daugherty's. They took part in the community. I still

have the 1st prize ticket my mother won for her geese at the Fair.

One day a tub of ice cream wasn't claimed at the station so the agent made a deep dish apple pie and they treated the town to ice cream.

In 1921 they sold the livery business to George Lee and moved to the south half of 32-45-10. They milked cows and farmed, enduring the dry years, making do during the demands of the war time.

In 1949 they moved to Sedgewick and semi-retirement. Dad worked in the hardware store till he retired because of my Mother's ill health.

They moved to Battle River Lodge in August 1966. My mother died in June 1967, followed by my dad in September.

Marshall Burns and I were married on December 26, 1941. We still farm the homeplace with the help of son Ross, his wife, Carol, and two grandchildren, Lee and Donna. Our other son, Keith, is a technician with Alberta Power in Grande Prairie.



Dona, Ole Christenson and daughter Audrey in 1930.

JOHN ALFRED CHRYSLER

by Blanche (Chrysler) Fouracre

John Chrysler's ancestors came to the new world in 1710, landing at New York which was still a British Colony.

They were of German descent and had lost their homes in Germany. They accepted an offer by the British to come to America to start a new life. After the American Revolution they moved to Upper Canada and cleared land for homes for their families. They had to go to war again to fight the Americans and it was fought on their land and known in the history books as the "Battle of Chrysler's Farm". A park and monument stands in

Upper Canada village with their name on it.

John was born in 1878 near Bancroft. There was a large family and he was the second oldest and lived the longest. At the age of twenty-one he married Jane McNroy and they moved onto a small farm. After living there several years, they decided to come west with their three children. They and another family put their belongings together in a boxcar and it was free passage as they called it "settlers' effects." John had a wagon, democrat, mower, sleigh, harness for three head of horses which he didn't have and some household effects. They landed in Mannville in 1908 and stayed near Lefield, a district southwest of Mannville, where his wife's parents and relatives lived. They lived in log shacks and even a shack with a dirt floor. John worked for farmers in order to feed his family and in the meantime kept looking for a homestead. At last he found one at Orbindale, fourteen miles from Irma. They lived in a shack and the winter was very cold and he sat up at night putting wood on the fire to keep his family warm.



John and Jane Chrysler and their five children taken in front of their house.

He managed to save enough money to buy two horses, two cows and two calves so at last he had milk for his family, but sometimes the diet was mostly rolled oats. In August they moved into their new house and at last they had a home of their own.

They had good neighbors, the Coultmans, Priors, Johnstons and many others. In the winter months they did lots of visiting and dancing at Orbindale and Albert schools. By this time they had a family of six, but with lots of milk, a large garden, chickens and pigs, were quite happy. They lived at Orbindale for seven years until they bought a farm from the C.P.R. near Mannville in 1916. John built a house, barn and other buildings and raised his family. As the depression was on and the family grown, they moved to Edmonton in 1941. John had a small farm and worked part time and he and his wife stayed in the city until 1954 when they returned to Mannville to retire.

Their oldest son, Royden passed away in 1947 and their



John Chrysler and son Royden on the homestead in Orbindale District.

second son died in 1965. John lost his dear wife in 1968 and his son, Cory in 1978, the year he was one hundred years old. Still bright and alert, he could tell you stories about the good times as well as the bad ones, which were very interesting. He received messages from The Queen, the Prime Minister and Peter Lougheed on his one hundredth birthday.

He passed away in the Islay Hospital at the age of one hundred and one years. He was an Orangeman for seventy-five years and a United Empire Loyalist. He is still called "Mannville's Grand Old Man."



George Clapp from Silver Lane.

GEORGE CLAPP

George Clapp was born and raised at Peoria, Illinois. As a young man he travelled fairly extensively in Texas and Kentucky. The date he moved to Canada is not known, but he came to the Rosalind area and married there. One daughter was born, but Mrs. Clapp died in childbirth. Around 1917 George and his baby daughter moved to the Irma area and at first resided on Section 20 in Lewisville school district. Mrs. Freeman Smith who lived on the place now owned by John Pasztor, looked after the baby for a year. George then took his daughter to the United States where she was raised by his sister.

George Clapp was an excellent horseman. He kept

Percheron stallions and raised and broke many good horses. George was especially proud of his hackney driving team outfitted with a showy harness. One spring while crossing a ford in the river the horses were drowned. George was lucky to escape.

After the big crop of 1927, Earl Bronson hauled grain all winter for George with sleigh and a good team of Percherons. Later George moved to a location southwest of his first farm. After several years at this location he moved into Hardisty where he spent his remaining years.

WOODRUFF CLARK HISTORY

by Cliff Wakefield

Woodie, as he was known to all, was born in the Ottawa area in 1880. His parents passed away when he was quite young and he was raised by an older brother, John George Clark who at the time ran the Ottawa Dairy.

He took his schooling in Ottawa but wanted to come west. He left home, coming west to Calgary area in 1895 or 1896 working on ranches.

He started raising cattle on his own and had about thirty head. A severe blizzard came through the area, the cattle went into a ravine to escape the fury of the storm. The cattle were completely covered with snow and were frozen to death.

He worked in Calgary hauling freight. There was a lady who came in to Calgary selling eggs, butter, milk and garden produce. Before she went home she always stopped at the bar for a drink and always left her horse "Billy" at the hitching rail. One night, while she was in the bar, some young fellows unhitched the horse, took him around to the other side of the hitching rail, pulled the buggy up to the rail, and hitched the horse to the buggy again with the buggy on one side and the horse on the other. The fellows hid nearby to see what happened when she went to go home. Well, when she saw her horse on one side of the rail and the buggy on the other, she remarked, "How the heck did you get there, "Billy?" Woodie was one of these fellows in on the joke.

In 1905 he took a homestead in the Irma area S.W. 20-46-8. He still hauled freight with his four and six horse teams and sleigh in the winter, hauling freight from Calgary to Edmonton and Saskatoon to Edmonton. He hauled freight and supplies for the building of the High Level Bridge in Edmonton and for the construction of the McDonald Hotel in Edmonton.

Woodie would come back to his farm in the spring, put in the crop then would go freighting. Then he worked in the winter for his brother J.G. Clark who homesteaded the land known as Clark Manor.

He joined the army when the 1914-1918 war broke out, served in the Cavalry then was transferred to hauling supplies to the front lines. Jim Wakefield took care of his livestock while Woodie was overseas.

Woodie, returning from the war, spent the winter with the Wakefields returning to his farm on the N.W. 17-46-8 in the spring.

Woodie was a consistent farmer; his livestock was his pride and joy. He had good cattle and horses and he took good care of them.

His day started at four-thirty a.m. when he was out

feeding and harnessing his horses. Seven o'clock he was in the field, stopping for an hour at noon and he quit at six p.m., fed his horses and was in bed by eight o'clock.

He had one of the first radios in the neighborhood. The news and the grain prices were a must. Woodie liked listening to the hockey games, Gang Busters, Amos and Andy and Lux Radio Theatre. When the programs were over the radio was turned off.

In 1929 he bought his first car, a 1929 Chevrolet Coupe. This car was only driven in good weather and was always spotless and had not a scratch on it. He kept this car until 1939 when he purchased a new 1939 Chevrolet coupe which also received the best of care.

In 1938-39 he rented his farm to Bill Patterson, who farmed it until 1960. Then the land was sold to Jack Dunbar.

Woodie took up residence in the Irma Hotel after the sale of his land. He became one of the many close friends of Frank, Irene and Rene Drewicki, owners of the hotel. He resided there until failing health forced him to take up residence in the Auxiliary Hospital until he was called home to his well-earned rest to Carp, Ontario in November 1973.



Woodie Clark, Bessie and Jim Wakefield and Ina Knudson, Woodie is Bessie and Ina's Uncle.

THOMAS AND MAUREEN CLARKE

by Maureen (Patterson) Clarke

My grandfather, Reuben William Patterson, was born at Inverness, Quebec, on May 7th, 1885. My grandmother, Elizabeth Lucinda McCauley, was born in Ryerson, Parry Sound, Ontario on April 9th, 1890. She arrived in Edmonton with her parents, Samuel and Catherine McCauley, in 1892.

Reuben and Lucinda were married in Edmonton in 1912. Three children completed this family: Margaret (Marney), William McCauley, and Catherine Ann (Tid). Tragedy struck the family in 1926 with the untimely death of Lucinda. The family had now lived at Irma for several years.

In 1928, Reuben married Arley May Prosser, daughter of Wellington and Margaret (Allen) Prosser. They had two children; Wallace William and Lois May.

Reuben passed away on August 6th, 1944 at the age of fifty-nine years. Arley is now living in Edmonton. Wallace (Sonny) still lives on the home farm with his wife, Joy, who is a nurse, and their children, Bradley and Karen.

My father, William McCauley Patterson, married



Back Row: Holly, Tommy, Maureen, Darren. Front Row: Shauna-Leigh, Dallas, Kammie.

Mona Emily Watson, daughter of Wellington and Maude (Merrill) Watson in 1939. They lived in their own home on Wellington Watson's farm for a few years. In 1944 they moved to their own farm; buildings located on S.E. 25-45-9-W4th. They had four children: Maureen, Joan, Brian and Barry. In 1960 they sold the farm to Joe Oracheski and moved to Kamloops, B.C. Bill then proceeded to get his journeyman's ticket as an electrician. Their favorite leisure-time activity is square dancing. They have danced from Seattle to Halifax.

Joan is now married to Percy Gulliford. She has two children, Curtis and Shaunda. Joan has worked for several years at the radio station in Kamloops. Brian was married and has three sons: Shawn, Scott and Steven. He also is a journeyman electrician and has worked at the pulp mill for several years. Barry was married and has two children, Dale and Heather. He works for the Lornex Mine at Logan Lake.

After beginning school at Sunny Brae and later attending the Irma School, I proceeded to become a teacher. My first school was at the old Keg River Post off the Mackenzie Highway. The following fall I was transferred to the public school in Fort Vermilion where I taught for three years. In Fort Vermilion I met a young fellow who soon became my husband, Thomas Clarke, (his aunt was my principal). We now have five children: Holly Maureen Carla - born December 29th, 1964; Darren Lee Thomas - November 9th, 1966; Dallas Shane - August 17th, 1971; Shauna-Leigh Tracy - October 2nd, 1972; and Kammie Danita - February 12th, 1974. We also lived a year in Kamloops and another year in Hinton. In 1968 we arrived in Chip, a beautiful but isolated settlement of 1200 people, situated on Lake Athabasca. Chip is a settlement in transition; dogteams and ski-dooes compete along the winter trails and roads; canoes and scows are still an important way of transporting freight and commodities; the Bay is still a fur buying post; the people are multi-lingual (not bilingual), English, French, Cree and Chipewyan; and we charter an airplane as casually as a southerner hails a passing taxi.

Everyday life is a challenge here. Many of life's amenities are relatively new and nothing is taken for

granted. Electric lights were only installed in 1959; telephones appeared in 1962; radio came on the air in 1969 and television in 1976. A water and sewer system is only arriving this summer of 1982.

Our days are long in summer and short in winter. Everyone is busy so nobody minds. Last summer the three youngest kids, Tommy, and I all took swimming lessons and received our first two badges. That was a major accomplishment for someone like me who was afraid of water. Tommy and I both have student pilot licenses and hope to complete these in the near future. Tommy now has a trapline around Powder Lake in the Northwest Territories so a plane will become very handy.

Tommy owns and operates a garage here in Chip. We also have The Caribou Lodge (cafe and rooms). I taught school here; three years to Bishop Piche School, four years at the public school. For the last five years I have been teaching adults during the winter months. I teach mainly math and science, with some reading, English and spelling. The goal is to bring their standard up enough for them to pass the trades entrance exam. It's extremely interesting with grade levels from one to eleven.

Tommy is the Fire Chief for Chip. I have been chairman for the Advisory Council (our local government in the improvement district) for the last eight years. We take part in many other aspects of Fort Chip's 'doings'. One of the highlights was a trip we were both on to Montreal in 1975 to study granite quarries.

On another trip Tommy and I were away from November 8th to December 2nd. That was the trip of a lifetime as far as I'm concerned - three weeks in Kenya, East Africa. We had two days in Nairobi and two days in Mombasa, but the rest of the time we were out in their bush on safari, sleeping in all types of accommodation from a tent to a thatched hut. Wild animals were everywhere. In many of the camps there were twenty-four hour guards. Suppers were late, usually eight p.m., so there were guards with a flashlight and clubs who guided us 'home'. Every bank had a big guard armed with a baseball bat and a gun. Gave us a funny feeling at first. The poverty and sheer numbers of people rather bothered me at first but I got used to it. Bargaining was a new experience. I felt I should pay whatever was asked (still cheap by our standards) but the rule was to bargain and you'd probably get it at half price. I got a lot of wood carvings and some native jewellery. Most of the people were very attractive but it is sure a man's world. Women would walk miles every morning with a gourd of water on their heads. The land varied from desert sand and stones, to rocky, to red, iron enriched soils. We spent one night in a tree top lodge in the jungle rainforest and others in areas so arid and rocky I wondered how any wild life or people could survive. We camped on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro and what a site it is. We saw nearly every animal we could - elephant, giraffe, gazelles, lions, cheetah, jackals, zebras, hundreds of birds, water buffalo, wildebeest, hartebeest, topi, hippos, rhinos, porcupines (150 pounds), lizards, no snakes - only a snake tail. On the way home we had five hours in London so we and another couple rode a double decker bus in to Victoria Station for a look around. Found it intriguing but oh, so many people, buildings and cars.

Much water has flowed down life's river since I left the farm at Irma. It seems like only yesterday that I was following Homer Wyand around in harvesttime, plaguing him with a hundred trivial questions, as he stooked the crops.

BERT CLELLAND

Mr. B.A. Clelland, known to all as "Bert", was born in Hemmingford, Quebec in 1879. He came west to Edmonton in 1909 in company with Mr. Jack Rae. They spent a short time in Edmonton until their wives joined them. Having brought with them a carload of settlers' effects, they proceeded to look for homesteads.

Mr. Pyle Sr., whom they did not know then, came west with them. Bert filed on N.E. 12-47-9-W4 the following year. Mrs. Clelland passed away in 1919. In 1922 he remarried a widow with two children, Maxine and Charles. In 1923 a daughter, Audrey, was born.

Bert remained on the farm until his health failed when he moved into Irma (in the house where Fred Jack lives today). In 1943 he was confined to hospital in Edmonton where he passed away in 1945.

Mrs. Clelland and Audrey lived in Irma for some time. Audrey married Pat Camerie and lives in Vancouver. Mrs. Clelland passed away in Edmonton in 1976.



Fred, Jack, Maxine (Marchand), Bert. Front: Jim and Anne.

JAMES CLISDELL FAMILY

by Anne Clisdell

We came to Canada in the late fall of 1926 to friends, the McClean brothers, we had known in the old country, Ireland. We resided with Bob McClean until Jim found work with Robert Beatty for the winter of 1926-27. I, Annie, went to work for the Beatty family in January, 1927. We were there until April, at which time we were married in Provost by the United Church Minister, Rev. C. Bishop.

We worked for Bob McClean for two years. In 1928 we bought the S.W. 1/4 35-41-2-W4th from the C.P.R. Since this land joined Bob McClean's, we rented his land on crop share basis.

We moved to the Green Meadow district in 1929, and moved into a vacant house of McMann's. We bought a granary from Percy McMann which we made into a house. During the summers we lived in this house, but because there was no well, we'd move back to the McMann house, which was more livable, for the winters.

By 1931 our own house was finished so we did not have to move. By this time we had "Three Irishmen Trailing Behind" as the song went. In 1929 Jim broke thirty acres of our own land and in 1930 we had a lovely crop on it. Along came hail on August 27th and laid it low. Our rented land was hailed out also.

From then on we progressed as best we could with the help of good neighbors. We were not the only ones in the same boat. As long as you had the will to work, you got there. Our family attended church and Sunday School at Green Glade school.

In 1944 we moved to the Irma locality with our four children, three boys and one girl (who was the youngest and first to get married). Their names are William Robert (Bert), Fredrick Joseph (Fred), John James (Jack), and Maxine Anne.

Maxine married Victor Marchand and lives one mile east of Fabyan. They have four children.

Bert married in 1961. His wife passed away in 1968, leaving three little kiddies. Bert farmed two miles from home and we looked after the children until 1973 when he remarried. They are now living in Airdrie, Alberta.

Fred married Shirley Williams of Vermilion in April, 1981.

Jack lives at home with me.

In 1976 we purchased a house in Irma from Ethel Wright, but continued to farm until 1976 when we sold our farm to Donald Lukens. Jim passed away in March, 1981.

Victor and Maxine Marchand celebrated their Silver Anniversary in 1981. I am blessed with a great-grandchild in 1982 and another in 1983.

I am enjoying retirement in Irma where everyone is a friend when need calls for it. My sincerest wish is that this spirit of love and kindness will carry on and that the light will never go out.

FRED AND KAY CLUMSTAD

Fred and I came to Irma to take up residence on November 7th, 1947. This was the coldest November in our memories. We had purchased a small business from Alvin and Lily Johnson and continued to live in the same building for many years.

In time Fred became the Irma policeman and I took up teaching grade two in the Irma School in September, 1953. I continued to teach for twenty-six years before retiring in June, 1979. After several years of policing in Irma, Fred joined the Wainwright's Police Force where he worked for many years until the Town Police Force was dissolved and replaced by R.C.M.P. We continued to live in Irma after selling our place on main street to Gary and Eunice Jones, and we moved to a home on the 51st Avenue. Our old place on Main Street eventually became Bud's and Kitty's restaurant.



Clumstad family, 1980. Fred, Harvey (son), Arlene (daughter), Kay with grandchildren, Carrie and Craig.

Arlene was two years old when we first came to Irma. Harvey was born at Wainwright in May, 1951. Both children took their schooling in the Irma School before going for further education at the University of Alberta. Arlene completed her Bachelor of Education there and taught for one year at Wainwright, before marrying Alan MacLeod. Both taught school for a few years before Alan returned to the University of Edmonton for his Doctorate in Education. They are now living in Claresholm where Alan has been Superintendent of Schools for twelve years and Arlene is a part time teacher. Their son Craig is ten and daughter Carrie is eight years of age.

Harvey completed his Zoology degree at the University of Alberta, but photography continued to be his prime interest. This led to more training at the Ryerson Institute of Technology in Toronto for a few years. There he met Lindsay Jackson, whom he married in October, 1981. They are now both doing work in Commercial Photography and living in Toronto.

In August, 1980, we sold our home on the 51st Avenue to John and Joanne Leskosky, and moved to Camrose where we are still residing. Camrose has advantages we were looking for, although Irma's community spirit is hard to equal anywhere else. We are thankful our children had the opportunity of growing up in this community which has given our children and us many fond memories.

Fred's associations with the Fish and Game, The Graton Masonic Lodge, the Drop-in, Pond's Cafe and community on the whole were all happy ones.

I, too, enjoyed my associations with school, church and community throughout the thirty-three years that we lived there.

EDITH AND HAROLD COCKROFT

by Edith Cockroft

My father, William Cole, came to Irma from Waskatenau in 1924 to buy grain for the Northern Grain Co. In the fall of 1925 I came and worked first for Pryce Jones, who at that time operated a restaurant, later worked at Shaw's Hotel with the late Palma Masson. When the hotel closed for redecorating, I went home to Waskatenau for a short time going to work at the University of Alberta.

In 1927 I married Harold Cockroft, who, after the birth of our first daughter, Dorothy, also became a grain buyer. He worked as second man for Ed Jewell, who had been moved to Waskatenau from Irma. The following year our second daughter, who is now Jean Larson, was born.

In those days a grain buyer was moved quite frequently and we were moved to Thorhild. We were only there for one year when the town was nearly destroyed by fire. Two elevators, one store and a garage remained. I remember the air was full of sparks as we drove out through town, the only exit to Harold's brother's place at Waskatenau. We felt we were leaving everything we owned and would come back to ashes - a terrifying thought. We drove twenty miles to his brother's where Harold left the girls and me. He took his brother's car and his brother, leaving our car just as we had loaded it, and drove back to fight fire. The two of them worked all night to save our home and elevator. We were living in two rooms built on to the office of the elevator. Four years later we were moved to Egremont, a small hamlet ten miles further south. After four years there, Harold had to quit the elevator as he could no longer stand the dust. He decided to go north to Goldfields, which was close to the Alberta border in Saskatchewan, near the sixtieth parallel.

This experience was a little like homesteading, except it was a mining town. The families who flocked to Goldfields at that time, had to build a house as large as he could with what little lumber was available. The men helped each other after their regular hours at their jobs, to build one another's houses. While the houses were being constructed, we lived in tents, but as winter approached, everyone was in a hurry to move into his home. The next year we were able to obtain more lumber, as did many of our friends.

After three years we decided a mining town was no place to raise young girls and left for Edmonton. The Second World War had started by this time. The girls finished their schooling in Edmonton. Dorothy took a commercial course at McTavish Business College and Jean went to University to take Education. She later came to Irma to teach school at Education Point, where she met and married Allan Larson. Dorothy, by this time, had married Gene Burke, an insurance agent. They made their home in Edmonton and ended up with a family of five sons. Jean has a family of two sons and one daughter, having lost one son in an accident in 1980.

Since Harold always had a yearning to raise hogs, he chose to give up construction to pursue this interest and in June, 1958, we moved to what was originally the

Clelland place ten miles north of Irma, now owned by our son-in-law Allan Larson. When there was a slump in the pig market, we sold the pigs, but Harold continued to do small carpenter jobs locally for a number of years.

Harold was born in Ontario and came to a farm in Waskatenau, Alberta, with his family in 1908. I was born in London, England, and came with my parents and sister, Elsie, to Canada in 1914. From the time we each came to Alberta until we moved to make our home north of Irma in 1958, our lives consisted of many moves, all of short durations. The eighteen years that we lived on the farm was the longest that either of us had ever lived in one place.

After losing my husband in 1976, I moved from the farm to Chacutenah Manor in Irma in January, 1977, and have lived there since that time.



Jean Larson, Harold and Edith Cockcroft, Dorothy Burke.

Blessed are they who run around in circles, for they shall be known as wheels.

MILDRED CODE FAMILY

Mildred Louise is the oldest daughter of Fred and Irene Hill. She went to school in Irma, then took a business course. Mildred's first job was at the Highway Traffic Board in Edmonton. Next she went to Toronto and worked in the United Church Office. While in Toronto she met Thomas (Tom) Foulkes. They were married on April 19th, 1947, in London, Ontario. They came west on their honeymoon, and Tom went to work for P.J. Hardy Wholesale Lumber Co. This company was owned and operated by Mildred's aunt, Mrs. P.J. Hardy.

Tom died June 11th, 1955.

Mildred and Tom had three sons: Donald Edwin, David Charles, and Thomas Douglas (Doug.). Doug was born after Tom's death. After Tom's death, Mildred worked for Sun Life Assurance in Edmonton.

Mildred married Clark Code on November 19th, 1959. Mildred and Clark have one son, Fredrick Blair, and they live in Huttonville, Ontario.

CHARLES AND CARRIE COFFIN FAMILY

by Keith Coffin

My father was born March 5th, 1879 at Chatfield, Minnesota, U.S.A. and mother was born November 16th, 1882 at Medford, North Dakota. Dad's family tree traced directly back to England - crossing to America on the Mayflower. Mother's family were of Scottish descent.

In 1910 my folks decided to join the pioneers seeking new land in Alberta. Their homestead was located twelve miles north of Youngstown.

Their children at that time were Lonnette, Ferne and Sherburne. Verle, Delbert and myself were born at the homestead and our family doctor was Dr. W.W. Cross, who was later elected to the first Social Credit Government and served as Minister of Health until his retirement and for whom the present W.W. Cross Cancer Hospital was named.

In 1922 we moved into Youngstown where Dad established a draying business. This venture prospered until the extreme drought of the 1930's. At this time the provincial government assisted the farmers with free freight to greener areas. In 1932 Dad turned back to farming and located on the Russel Love soldier settlement farm one mile west of Irma and now occupied by Jack Veer.



July 1941. Front: Bernice-Ann Hockett, Lorna-Jean Hockett, Betty-Lou Hockett, Dorcas Magrath, Ethel Matheson, Donald Matheson, in front of Donna-Faye Hockett, Darrell Hockett. Back Row: Charles Coffin, Ferne Hockett, Delbert Coffin, Lorraine Hockett, Verle Matheson, Keith Coffin, Gail Hockett, Mrs. Coffin.

In 1939 we moved into town where Dad contracted to carry the rural mail south of town. He continued this until his retirement. Mother had failing health and passed away in 1946. Dad took up residence in the Battle River Lodge at Wainwright and lived to the ripe old age of ninety-one years.

Lonnie Coffin graduated from Calgary Normal School and taught in southern Alberta and for six years in the Peace River at Sexsmith. This was followed by teaching one year at Alma Mater before she married Tommy Dykes of Edmonton and they had one son, Bobby.

Ferne trained as a telephone operator. She married

Arthur Hockett and had six girls and one boy, all of whom attended school at Irma. They moved to Viking and later to Edmonton.

Sherburne farmed a few years, then took up carpenter work at Delia, Alberta. He married Kathleen Newman at Delia. They have one daughter and one son.

Verle trained as a nurse in Edmonton. She married Dan Matheson. They had one son and one daughter.

Delbert served in the army and later worked at Camp Wainwright. He married Mae Challman at Vermilion. They did not have any children. Delbert developed a cancerous growth in his throat which proved fatal in 1968.

I finished my last year of high school at Irma and worked at John Ostad's garage and for Vic Hutchinson before enlisting in the R.C.A.F. On December 17th, 1941 I married Dorcas Magrath in Calgary, having met her while she was teaching at Strawberry Plains, south of Irma. After my discharge I went into partnership with Vic Hutchinson in April, 1946, who at that time had the Massey Harris Farm Machine Agency. Vic retired in 1958 and Dick McRoberts came into business with me for sixteen years. Since 1980 I have not had the Massey Ferguson franchise but have still kept a stock of farm belts, bearings, roller chains etc. I also operate a school bus.

Dorcas and I had two daughters and one son, all of whom are teachers and are still teaching. Patricia married John Andrukow of Viking and they have two boys, Derek and Trevor. Douglas married Betty Brazunas of McLaughlin and they have four daughters, Susan, Kathy Naomi and Jamie. They built a new house on the old King property at the north end of town and last year built another house just east of them in which we now live. Gertrude (Trudy) married Danny Johnston of Cranbrook, B.C. and they have one son Ricky.



Delbert and Mae Coffin.

DORCAS COFFIN (NEE MAGRATH)

by Dorcas Coffin

Dorcas was born at Killam, Alberta in 1908. She moved to Rosebank, Manitoba where her mother died when Dorcas was two, so she went to live with her maternal aunt in Winnipeg, where she lived until she was five. In November, 1913 she went to Calgary as her father had remarried and brought the family together - her sister Mabel and brother Sidney.



Magrath family Jan. 1, 1962. Left to Right: Dorcas Coffin, Sidney Magrath and Mabel Holt.

Her father served overseas in the First World War.

She received all her education in Calgary until she completed her grade twelve. She attended University in Manitoba where she received her B.A. in 1930, returning to Calgary to attend Normal school.

After teaching a few years she came out to Strawberry Plains school at Irma where she met Keith Coffin. They were married December, 1941 when he was on embarkation leave and she worked in Calgary post office during his overseas service.

When he returned in 1945, they spent a year in Calgary and in April of 1946 Keith returned to Irma to go into partnership with Vic Hutchinson. After their baby, Patricia, was born in June, Dorcas followed to Irma and they stayed with Dorcas' sister, Mabel Holt, until early December, when they bought the Flewelling house. They lived there until December, 1983 when they moved into a new residence built by their son, Douglas Coffin.



Keith Coffin family. Left to Right: Keith, Dorcas, Doug, Trudy and Pat. Taken May 1964 at Pat's graduation from High School at Irma.

THE DOUG COFFIN FAMILY

Douglas Coffin was born and raised in the Irma district. In 1970, he graduated from the University of Alberta receiving a Bachelor of Education Degree. Doug taught school in Tofield and in 1972 married Elizabeth (Betty) Brazunas, formerly of the McLaughlin area. In 1973, they moved to Edmonton where Doug entered the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the U of A and Betty worked at the University of Alberta Hospital as an X-Ray Technician.

In August 1974, they moved to Irma. They bought the Gertrude Matthew's property and at present reside in a home built on this property in 1979. Much bush was cleared so the land looks different than it did in the early 1970's.

Doug and Betty have four children: Susan, Katherine, Naomi and Jamie. Their dog, Mac, is often seen pulling children in the sleigh during the winter months.

Betty worked at the Wainwright General Hospital for two years and now relieves as an X-Ray Technician in the summer. Presently Doug is employed by the Wainwright School Division.



Betty Coffin, Naomi, Kathy, and Susan in Jasper in December, 1983.



Doug Coffin and his dog "Mac".



Mrs. Elizabeth Cole, Edith Cockcroft (Cole), Elsie Coultman (Cole), Mr. Bill Cole.

WILLIAM COLE FAMILY

William Cole came to Irma in 1924, buying grain for the Northern Grain Company. He was the first buyer in that elevator, as the previous one had burned down. Mrs. Cole and her daughter Elsie came to Irma in 1927. Edith had come to visit her dad in 1925 and stayed three months, working for Mrs. Shaw in the hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Cole lived in the office of the elevator until the summer of 1927 as Mr. and Mrs. Schon were living in the Company house.

Mr. Cole was a Boer War Veteran, belonged to the Masonic Order, and was a member of the Orange Lodge. Mrs. Cole was the first president of the Women's Institute and was one of the ladies who helped to get this organization started in Irma. During the poor years, Irma Lodge had to disband and Mrs. Cole joined Connaught Chapter in Wainwright.

Mr. and Mrs. Cole left Irma in 1941, moving to Blue Ridge where he bought grain for two years before retiring and moving to White Rock, British Columbia. Mr. Cole bought a chicken farm, selling eggs to the hatcheries and growing a large garden. After a few years they retired and moved into White Rock. Mrs. Cole passed away in October 1947 after a lengthy illness. Mr. Cole stayed in White Rock for a few years and then moved into a Seniors' self-contained cottage for two years. He then came to Wainwright to the Lodge. He was moved to Government House in Edmonton, which was a veterans' hospital, in 1963 as he was in poor health. He passed away on July 4, 1964, seven days after his eighty-eighth birthday.



Will Cole taking a dip.

THE COMLEY STORY

by Mrs. Morraine Comely Mullen

Mr. and Mrs. William Comley, son Gilbert, and daughter Gladys arrived in Sedgewick June, 1910. They purchased the south half of 17-45-10-W4 from the Canadian Pacific Railway and Land Company.

There were no roads or fences as yet but they proceeded to haul lumber and materials across country to construct the first frame house in the area. After the house was built, the road surveyors ordered Mr. Comley to move his home as the initial survey had the road passing within a few feet of the house.

Mr. Comley's younger brother, Frank, soon joined them in Canada from their native England.

As there wasn't enough land broken to plant crop to cover living expenses, the three men worked in Edmonton during the summer of 1911, Wm. and Frank as stonemasons and Gilbert as a carpenter. The two brothers worked on the Flatiron Building at 95th Street and Jasper while Gilbert to this day boasted that he had hung the door and window sashes on Edmonton's first Brewery at 121 Street and 102 Avenue. Both buildings are still in use. While thus employed the men made their home in a tent at 119 Street and Jasper obtaining their main meal of the day at the cook tent of Mrs. R.T. Meakins through the trees of 120 Street and 102 Avenue.

Meanwhile the Grand Trunk Railway had passed Jarrow on its way to Edmonton and Mrs. Comley and Gladys had moved in to the village with Mrs. Comley boarding the banker, doctor, etc. and Gladys becoming the town's first postmistress. The doctor, Dr. Boissonnault, recently graduated from McGill, had taken his remaining money and bought a railway ticket for the amount he had, bringing him to Jarrow, Alberta. He later moved to Edmonton where he was in practise for many years.

To begin with, Comley's hauled their water from a spring in the coulee on the next section west of their own. The men made eight attempts to get a good supply of well water. Once Gilbert and Frank commenced digging in the coulee south of their house. They left their work to go home for lunch, and upon their return in the afternoon the tools had all but disappeared in a small area of quicksand. That site was abandoned. Eventually they had a well drilled 196 feet in depth which provided them with an abundant supply of soft water and has never been known to go dry - including the time the men were away and had left the windmill on. Three days later Bob Heron came by and shut it off but not before the horse trough was full, plus a large area of the yard.

With no fences and no herd laws, everyone let their livestock run free. This necessitated everyone having a registered brand; ours was CY bar. Later on in the 20's Comley's had a fair sized herd of horses that wintered out on open land. One spring the herd came home missing all the new colts. That was the end of wintering in the open.

Frank Comley was one of the original members of the Edmonton Regiment (49th) in the First World War. He was killed in France, October 8, 1916. Gladys Comley married Percy Haskins and returned to England for the duration. Mr. and Mrs. Haskins returned to Canada for

a short time after the war with Percy farming the N.E. 17. Meanwhile both William and Gilbert had obtained an extra quarter each via the homestead method and Gilbert purchased the N.W. 17.

One of the highlights of the year was Jarrow Sports Day (usually held to coincide with Victoria Day, May 24 or King George's birthday, June 3). One year there was an automobile race which commenced at the top of the hill east of the main street - this starting point was necessary so the Model T's could coast down the hill. But Gill and Percy hooked up a self starter on their car and took off with a flying start. They were most unpopular with the rest of the contestants.

Mr. Wm. Comley was appointed Justice of the Peace for the area and it was not uncommon for the Mounties to bring their prisoners to the farm and the dining room became a Court Room with Mr. Comley presiding as Judge. Both the men took active parts in the affairs of the community with Wm. Comley serving for many years as district returning officer on the municipal council and always taking a lively interest in all political issues of the day. Meanwhile Gilbert served on the Metropolitan School Board for a very long time. They lent their support to bringing both the Wheat Pool and the United Grain Growers elevators to Jarrow. The James and Theroux houses and the cenotaph in Jarrow are examples of Wm. Comley's work while Gilbert assisted on the carpentry of many buildings in the area.

During the 1920's both men remarried with Gilbert marrying the Valley schoolteacher, Miss Jelfs, and later his father marrying Miss Jelf's mother.

These two ladies worked diligently for the United Farm Women, the church, beautifying their yards with trees and flowers and turning a fine seam. Mr. Wm. Comley always managed to have an excellent vegetable garden with fine tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbages etc. There were not any green houses or nurseries at which one purchased bedding out plants. All plants had to be started from seed in the kitchen and homemade hot and cold frame.

Mrs. Gilbert Comley began her career in Guiding as Captain of the Melgrove Valley company where she helped the girls to win the Provincial Handicraft Cup four times. Also she took her Girl Guides to summer camps at Hardisty, Clear Lake, and Cooking Lake, as well as a day trip to see the King and Queen in Edmonton during the royal visit of 1939. Meanwhile Mrs. Comley became Guide Commissioner of Eastern Alberta encompassing an area from Holden to Alberta's eastern borders.

During the Second World War Mrs. G. Comley was asked to relieve as teacher at Metropolitan School for three months and stayed about 13 years until the few remaining children were bussed to Loughheed town school. Teaching school was her favorite occupation and she enjoyed her association with all the pupils.

These four people enjoyed their life in the Metropolitan district and were fortunate to have good health with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Comley and Mr. Gilbert Comley all living past their 80th birthdays.

There have been vast changes since 1910 when there were no roads, fences and the few acres broken had been accomplished with oxen. In sixty years nearly all the land

is under cultivation, fences along the roadways, electricity and telephones in nearly every home. I imagine the early settlers would have been pleased to see the fruits of their early starts.

The Comley property is now owned by Gilbert's only daughter, Mrs. Morraine Mullen. Morraine married James Mullen and resides in Edmonton. They have three children: Gilbert, Kathleen, and Heather all of Edmonton.



Mr. and Mrs. Sol Congdon and family at the time of their retirement to Irma in 1952.

THE CONGDON FAMILY HISTORY

by Eva (Congdon) Knudson

The Sol Congdon family arrived in Irma in May, 1921 from Edmonton. Mr. Congdon bought the Swailes homestead the N.E. 21-45-9-W4, one-half mile south of Irma.

Sol Congdon was born at Campbellville, Ontario in May 1875, the youngest of a family of thirteen. He lived on a farm with his parents and brothers and sisters. His parents died when he was young.

Esther Congdon, nee Brooks, was born at Highgate, Ontario in March, 1881, the youngest of a family of eleven. She also lived on a farm with her parents and brothers and sisters. She was a twin.

Esther was staying with a sister when she met Sol Congdon. They were married in August, 1903. They moved to their own farm and lived there five years.

During this time two children were born: Mildred in 1904 and Charlie in 1905. Mildred died of pneumonia when she was three years old.

In July, 1907 they came out west and settled in Edmonton. The first winter was spent in a tent in Fraser Flats where Sol worked in a brickyard.

The next year they moved to the Norwood district Edmonton and Sol hauled lumber for the Alberta Lumber Co. on 94th street. He bought a corner lot on 94th St. and 114th Avenue and built a four-roomed house. Hazel was born in December 1908.

In 1910 Sol went into business for himself, starting a dray business which was named Norwood Express and Transfer. He stayed in this business until the spring of 1921, when he turned it over to Charlie to run, at the age

of fifteen, while he moved the family to the farm in Irma.

Johnnie was born in 1910, Eva in 1912, Sam in 1914, Ralph in 1917 and Percy in 1920.

Charlie continued in the business advancing from horses to trucks under the name of Congdon's Van and Storage. He married Anne Raymond in 1925 and had two sons, Bud and Buster. After finishing school they worked with their dad in the business.

Bud married Dorothy Rivard and had four daughters, Marlys, Kathy, Leslie and Sherry.

Buster married Pat Garvey and had four children, Dale, Lynn, Darren and Barry.

Charlie was later affiliated with North American Van Lines which prospered until his retirement in 1971, when he sold out to North American Van Lines.

Hazel finished her schooling in Irma, having taken most of her public school in Edmonton. She then went to Normal School in Camrose to train for a teacher. She taught at numerous schools including Sunny Brae and Education Point in the Irma district. In order to get a first class teacher's certificate it was necessary to have grade XII which was not being taught in Irma when she took her high school. Later it was taught in Irma so she quit teaching and went back to school and got her grade XII. While teaching in the Hughenden district she met Simon Fuglem, whom she later married in 1941. They bought out a little country store and Post Office and trucking business at Airways, twenty miles south of Amisk. A year later Simon was called up for the army. They closed up shop and went to Edmonton where Simon entered the services. Then they went to the west coast where Simon took his training. Here their daughter Marion was born. Simon went overseas in December 1944. Their son Ronald was born in June, 1945.

After Simon got his discharge in 1945 they moved back to their home south of Amisk. The Airways Post Office having been taken over by someone else during their absence, they took over the Kessler Post Office, put in a fresh supply of groceries and were in business again. Times had changed and they were not able to make a living from the store and trucking business so they went to farming. Simon purchased more land and went into cattle.

Their two children, Marion and Ronald, graduated from high school in Hughenden. Marion went into nurses training at the Royal Alex hospital in Edmonton from



Sol Congdon with team of horses purchased from Colin McLean in the early thirties.

which she graduated in 1964. She married Gordon Schulz in 1965 and now lives in Coquitlam, B.C. where Gordon teaches. They have three daughters, Candace, Jerene and Liane.

When Ronald finished his schooling he stayed at home and worked with his dad on the farm. He has land of his own but is still working with his dad.

Hazel went back teaching and taught until her retirement in 1973.

Johnnie got most of his schooling in Irma. After various jobs around the country he went to Edmonton and got into the concrete business which he continued with until his death in February, 1968. He married Susan Stocks in 1931. They had one child, a daughter, Suellen.

After graduation Suellen took a business course and did secretarial work in Edmonton till she married Gerry Foster. They live in Edmonton and have two boys, Tyler and Casey.

Eva took her schooling in Irma and after graduating went to Saskatchewan where she married Jack Atkinson in January 1941. They lived on a farm at Paradise Hill, Saskatchewan. They had one child, their son, Jack Jr. born December 1941. They lived on a farm for several years till Eva's husband died in 1949. Eva and young Jack returned to Irma where Jack finished his schooling. Eva did housework and sold Avon for several years till she married Fred Knudson in 1967. Eva died in 1981.

of the war in the North Atlantic, escorting convoys to England.

Sam married Marjorie Dotterer of Fallis, Alberta in November 1943. Marj had been at Aircraft Repair in Edmonton and worked there till she went to Halifax in the spring of 1944. When the war ended, Sam went to the west coast by ship where he got his discharge. After his discharge in October, 1945 he worked in the city till April 1947 when he returned to Irma and farmed in the Ross district north of Irma.

While in Edmonton their son Bob was born in January, 1946. Their daughter Diane was born in March 1951, the year of the big snow. They stayed on the farm for ten years, then moved to Irma where Sam worked for Imperial Lumber with Mr. Black. He worked there eight years, being manager for the last three years. He then quit and went to work at the Wainwright Army Camp in the supply stores. He worked there until his retirement in November, 1979. Sam passed away in 1982.

Bob finished his grade XII in Irma and then went to N.A.I.T. for a three-year course in Electronics. Unable to get that kind of work, he got a job working for North West Utilities and lived in Edmonton for sixteen years. He is still with North West Utilities and is presently living in Viking. He married Jeanne Tareay of Edmonton in 1975. They have one child, a son, Jamie.

Diane finished her grade XII and went to the Vermilion



Family gathering for Mr. and Mrs. S. Congdon's 60th Anniversary in August, 1962.

After Jack finished school, he went to work at the Irma Co-op until he married Elnora Rosenau of Wainwright in October 1966. They moved to Wilkie, Saskatchewan and Jack worked in the hardware department of the Co-op there for two years. He then returned to Irma and worked in the Irma Co-op again for a couple of years. He moved to Vanderhoof, B.C. where Jack took over the "Garden Centre" for the Co-op. He has been there for six years and with the Co-op in general for twenty-two years.

Sam finished public school and stayed at home on the farm until the fall of 1940 when he went to Edmonton and worked on a farm till he joined the Navy in November 1941, and went to the west coast for his training. He was sent to Halifax where he was drafted to a corvette for escort duty in the North Atlantic. He was in the Mediterranean for one winter. He spent the duration

college where she took a business course. After finishing her courses she married Dave Prior. They live on a farm north of Irma. Dave works with his dad and brother Claire. They have three children: Quinton, Darren and Terry.

Ralph finished his grade XII and worked at home on the farm with his dad. He married Thelma Vail of Wainwright in December 1941. He joined the Air Force in 1942 and served in Canada until 1944 when he became a Flying Officer prior to going overseas where he served for one year. On his discharge from the Air Force, he returned to Irma and his dad's farm. He worked in the Co-op as meat cutter for almost a year. He then took to farming with his brother Sam in the Ross district and farmed until 1955 when he moved to Wainwright and worked for the Municipality as Agriculture Fieldman. He

held this job until his passing in 1974. They had six boys and four girls: Ray in Red Deer; Sharla, who has since passed away; Sandra in Edmonton; Lloyd in Edmonton; Barry in the Phillipines; Darrel in Oklahoma; Janice in Wainwright; Keith in Edmonton; Bruce in Lloydminster; and Barbara who married Bradley Nilson. Thelma has worked in the Wainwright hospital for seven years.

Percy attended public school and high school in Irma. After graduating he stayed at home and worked on the farm until 1946 when he went to Ontario. He worked as a machinist in Lattner's machine shop in Kitchener, Ontario. He left there and worked for Good Year Tire until he returned to Alberta in 1952. He got a job at Alco Machine Works in Edmonton and is still working there at the present time.

Mr. Congdon rented out the farm and in 1951 he and Mrs. Congdon moved in to Irma in the house built for them by Mr. James Craig Sr.

Mr. Congdon passed away in 1964 at the age of 88. Mrs. Congdon passed away in 1978 at the age of 97.

ALLAN ROBERT CONNOLLY FAMILY

by Margaret (Pedel) Connolly

Allan Robert Connolly was born in the Daysland hospital on October 23rd, 1937, to a family of six brothers and sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Connolly lived on a farm south of Bawlf. Allan started school in Rosalind area and later his parents moved to a farm east of Ohaton, where his mother still lives with a son and daughter. Allan then went to school in Greengrove, just south of Ohaton, until the school was closed, and the children were bussed to Bawlf.

As a young lad he started to work on drilling and seismograph rigs throughout the Province.

Margaret Betty Pedel, the eldest daughter of Bill and Dolly Pedel, was born in Hardisty on March 31st, 1936. She took her schooling at Glenholm, going there on horseback, by skis or on foot. She reminisces of the joys of going across the Gulbraa pasture amongst the animals, especially those wild eyed Angus bulls Joe owned at the time.

Margaret left home in 1954 to work in Bethany Home in Camrose. She later worked for Chuck McLean (Editor of Camrose Canadian) and also two years at St. Mary's hospital.

On Septemebr 12th, 1957 she married Alan Connolly of Ohaton. They had lived several places in Alberta before moving back to Irma with their five children in December, 1971. While they lived on the former John MacKay place, their sixth child was born. They then purchased an acreage from Jim Owen (the former Martin Knudson farmstead) where they now live.

Their eldest son, Jim, is married, has two children and is employed with Leduc Construction.

Susan LePage is married, has one daughter and works at Battle River Lodge.

Sandra Zohorodnuik is married with one son, is a hairdresser employed at Wainwright Beauty Salon.

Robert (Bob) is employed at Wainwright Military Camp.

Hugh and Shirley are still attending the Irma School.

Margaret and Allan celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on September 12th, 1982.

Allan is employed with Hanson Contracting at Viking and Margaret has worked at Battle River Lodge for the past five years.

CAROLE (SMALLWOOD) CONRAD

Carole Mildred was born in Edmonton September 30, 1943. As a child she enjoyed school, sports and cutouts. She remembers whenever she was sick Dad would buy her pop and another book of doll cut outs to add to her collection. In her high school years she enjoyed playing the saxophone in the "Nissen Orchestra". Carole attended the University of Alberta and got her Bachelor of Arts in 1964 and her Law degree in 1967. She went to Calgary to practise and is still living there.

In 1972 she married Keith Conrad, originally from Taber. Keith, Carole and a few friends started their own law firm in 1972 and practised for several years. Carole still practises part-time. In January 1980 she was appointed to the Queen's Council. Keith quit practising law in 1982 to form a small oil company which at present is drilling in Central Saskatchewan.

Keith and Carole have three children: Derren James, and Cara Janelle, and Bradley Jerome. The same story holds true with them as most parents these days. It keeps one person busy taking children to their activities. The children love visiting Grandma so they can go to the Irma Pool Hall. It is "really neat". You can't go to a place like that in Calgary. They also love the "Club Cafe" because they can get their pop really cheap.



Keith and Carole (Smallwood) Conrad, Derren and Cara.

ARCHIE COOK

I was born on March 14th, 1913 into a family of three at Galahad, Alberta. I am the oldest son of the late Oscar and Alma Cook. I was raised in the Galahad area. My dad had bought a piece of land along with Jake Darling in 1927 at Irma. I moved here in 1928 at the age of fifteen, I now have my home on this land. Maybe I shouldn't say my dad purchased it - he only borrowed it as I didn't complete payment of it until 1944. I lived in an old shack until I was able to build a new place.

In 1934 I married Alice May Jones. To this union there were three children born: Joyce, who resides in Fort

Worth, Texas; Lorne who married Eileen Oldham and resides in Victoria; and Garry, who lives in Surrey, B.C. Lorne has four children and Garry has one son.

On January 5th, 1970 my wife Alice passed away. Being alone and farming, bachelorhood lifestyle was not for me. I married Margaret Olson of Wainwright, a girl who was raised at Spondin, in the Hanna area. In doing this I gained four step-daughters: Flicka Olson of Wainwright, Rhonda Pawsey of Lloydminster, Sandy Fletcher of Wainwright, and Kim Olson of Irma. Kim has completed her grade twelve in Irma and is presently attending University of Alberta.

I have since retired and am now living in town, where my wife, Margaret, manages the Irma Motel.



Blaine, Linda, Bob, Edgar, Ron, Shirley, inset lower corner - Margaret.

THE EDGAR COPELAND STORY

Edgar Copeland, the oldest son of homesteader parents, was born in Ontario and came west with his parents to a homestead in Kindersley, Sask. when very young. He grew up and farmed in Kindersley until he moved his family to Irma in 1966, living first in the village and later on the Lawrence Mitchell farm. He had already bought the old Miller place, but had to get a suitable house ready before moving there. Ron and Linda were still attending school, and Bob helping his Dad with all the chores connected with setting up a small ranch as well as working on the house in their spare time. All three were involved in 4H and various sports as well.

In 1972 Edgar married Violet M. Higgins of Maidstone, a freelance writer he had known when they were young and foolish. She and her two teenaged daughters, Frances and Pearl, and their dog, Corky, joined the household. That was the beginning of the tree-planting age: apples, plums, grapes, cherries, strawberries ... you name it, they had it. Their vegetables and fruits won prizes at the local fairs, but not as many as Edgar's colts.

Edgar got the whole family involved helping train those colts. It was a common sight to see a three-to-five-year old grandson or granddaughter slowly persuading a new baby colt to lead all the way from the barn to the house, under Grandpa's supervision. It was a pleasure to watch him "break" a colt, quietly winning its confidence and grooming it into an animal that any small child might safely mount.

Vi joined the Killam Writers' group and the Hazelwood ladies' club and kept on writing. Edgar raised and trained his horses and coached the girls' ball team in Irma. But health problems put an end to this idyllic existence. After Vi underwent a serious operation in Edmonton, they sold out and moved to Maidstone to "retire." Since then they have remodelled an older house, Edgar has done a bit of carpenter work. He reconstructed a democrat used by his father-in-law, the late S.J. McAvena, to haul mail in the 1900's. He has collected quite a few antique bottles and books, manufactured the odd set of harness, and is famous for his strawberries. Vi has had three books published in that time, and is working on a fourth, as well as a number of other writing projects. Both are active at the Senior Citizens' Drop-In; Edgar shines at 500, carpet bowling and alley bowling, while Vi prefers Scrabble or pool. Both are avid readers, and Edgar would still rather miss a meal than a hockey game.

Edgar and Vi have ten children and twenty grandchildren: Blaine Copeland, married Beverly Knecht, both well-known 4-H leaders at Irma. Blaine works for Merlin Exploration; they have two children, Tracey and Trevor.

Shirley, Mrs. Harvey Brown of Kindersley, works in the Canadian Bank of Commerce; they have two boys, John and Curtis.

Margaret, Mrs. Walter Lamb of Edmonton, also has two sons, Darrin and Darcy.

Robert, married Pamela Ansell-Sands. They live at Edson; Bob works at the B.A. Pam at the clinic. They have two children, Kyle and Kelsey.

Ronald, married to Lottie Guy of Irma works for Sedgewick Municipality. They have three sons, Clay, Craig and Corey, and live in Irma.

Linda, married Kurt Hanson; they live in Sherwood Park, Alta.

Vi's children: Betty, Mrs. Neil Procter, runs a Day Care in Lloydminster; Betty and Neil have two daughters, Sonya and Laurie.

Richard Schempp of Neilburg married Sharon Livingstone; they have three children, Peter, Robert and Stephanie. Dick is a carpenter.

Francis, Mrs. Clifford Rusnell of Edmonton, has two sons, Donald and Steven.

Pearl is Mrs. C. Oblemant. They have two children, Edward and Jennifer, and have recently moved to Fabyan, Alta.

MR. AND MRS. T.R. COPELAND

Tom, his wife, Lillian, and two of their sons, Russel and Albert, moved to the Irma district in 1972. They took up residence on what was known as the Dagg farm.

They were joined in this farming venture by their eldest daughter, Myrna, her husband, John, and their three daughters, Robyn, Ronaye and Erin. They moved to Edmonton in 1980.

Albert is also in Edmonton. He and his wife, Linda, have jobs in the computer field.

Russel married and he and his wife Jae and son Michael are now the active farmers. Another son Wilfred, an oil field consultant, and Russel also have the Shell Bulk oil business.

Two other sons also have land here but live in Crossfield. George, is a cattle buyer; his wife, Norrean, works in the bank. They have two children, Alyson and Erryl. Tom Junior works in construction and his wife Ruth demonstrates cooking. They have two sons, Tom the third, and Randy.

The other daughter, Mary, and her husband, Gary, look after the Saskatchewan farming interests. Mary has the honor of being Saskatchewan's youngest mayor. They have two children, Craig and Karen.

Tom and Lillian semi-retired to the town of Irma, where they put their roots down by building their retirement home.

Tom helps with the farming, and is active in curling and slow pitch ball. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a councillor for the town.

Lillian helps at school, teaches piano and is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a councillor for the town.

Twin sons were born to Russel and Jae in 1984.



Tom and Lillian Copeland.

RICHARD EDWARD COSTIN FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Costin came from the United States to the Irma area in 1910 to homestead on the N.E. 32-46-8. Mr. Costin taught school at Education Point when the school first opened. Mrs. Costin was a midwife to many of the mothers in the area when their children were born. She was a niece of Mrs. John Elliott. Two

sons, Clarence and Percy, homesteaded about the same time on S.W. 32-46-8 and N.W. 32-46-8 respectively. Colin McLean bought Percy's place and Laddie Kuwica bought the other two Costin quarters. Mrs. Costin passed away in 1917 and Mr. Costin in 1927. Both are buried in the Irma Cemetery.



Percy Costin and his father Edward Costin.

BUD COTTON FAMILY

Bud Cotton was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec in 1890 and grew up in Eastern Canada. As a boy he had visions of riding the range on the western plains. When he was sixteen years old he came to Alberta on his own and immediately became a cowboy.

In his book, "Buffalo Bud", he tells of exciting years while riding for large outfits in southern Alberta, including Pat Burn's outfit from 1906 to 1913; riding alone as a night jingler with a spooked saddle bunch in 1911; helping to run twelve thousand head through a mange dip on the Blackfoot reserve near Cluny, Alberta; and assisting with the drive of a cavvy of wild horses along the Calgary Stampede route in 1912.

Bud joined the Buffalo Park Reserve staff in 1913 with



Bud Cotton, Children, Della and Florence.

more excitement - such as having three horses killed under him during buffalo roundups. Except for time out for military duty in the war, he stayed with the Park until it closed in 1940. In 1944 he followed the buffalo to Elk Island Park where he stayed until his retirement in 1947.

He married Edith Pidgeon of Wainwright in 1921 and two daughters, Della and Florence, were born to this marriage. Both girls attended school at Lewisville and learned their father's love of horses. One day Bud discovered that they had been taking a shortcut to school by riding through the deep and dangerous waters of the Battle River rather than crossing on the bridge.

Bud retired from riding the range in 1947 and moved to Calgary. He always enjoyed writing and for years wrote articles for newspapers and magazines. Today he and Edith live in Calgary where he still enjoys writing and wood carving. Della passed away a number of years ago.



Elk at the Wainwright Park.

GAR AND ELSIE COULTMAN

by Elsie Coultman

Garfield Coultman, in 1906, arrived in the Orbindale District with his parents and a brother and sister. His father had obtained a homestead on N.W. 16-47-8 and after building a house and bringing in his "settlers' effects" the family made their home there where they were to live for many years. Upon the death of their father, Gar and Stanton took over the farming operation, building up a sizeable farm.

In 1929 Gar married Elsie Cole. They had three children: Sheila, Donna and Lorne.

Gar and Stanton Coultman and Erle Prior played for dances in the surrounding country schools and were known as "Coultmans' Orchestra", beginning in 1918. The orchestra continued with some different players. In 1945 Sheila started playing with her dad in the group, playing saxophone. In 1948 Donna joined the orchestra playing drums. By this time Sheila was playing the piano, Jennene and Lorna Archibald were with the group as well as Erle Prior and Allen Taylor. This group played for a few years together. Gar enjoyed music and played with several different people. Wes Parsons, a nephew, also played with Gar.

Gar was not only remembered for his music, he was also known for his pencil drawings. One of his drawings won second prize in the Edmonton Exhibition.

Gar's interest in music has been carried on by his daughter, Sheila, who has a dance band in the Camrose area. Her youngest son, Ian, and Brent Pierce of Irma are in her group.

Gar played for his last dance December 31, 1974. He passed away on March 4, 1975.

Elsie moved to Camrose in July, 1975 and is living in a Seniors' self-contained apartment. Her children have moved from the Irma district. Sheila and her husband and family moved to Camrose in 1971. Donna and her husband and family moved to Standard in November, 1966. Lorne moved to Winnipeg in June, 1966 where he resided until September, 1984 when he moved to Oshawa, Ontario.



Gar and Elsie Coultman, Harold and Edith Cockroft.

STANTON AND ANNE COULTMAN

Stanton came to the Orbindale District in 1906 with his parents and brother and sister, Garfield and Flora. They settled on their homestead on N.W. 16-47-8 where Stanton remained most of his early years. When his father died in 1922, Stanton and Gar farmed the land.

Stanton occupied the position of secretary-treasurer of the Orbindale School. He ran the road grader for the municipality for a few years. Later he became a member of the Municipal Hospital Board at Mannville.

Stanton liked to tinker with ideas. He developed two self-loading stook machines and also a snowmobile.

Coultman's orchestra started in the late twenties with Stanton on the drums, Gar on the saxophone and banjo, Erle Prior on the violin, Aldous Kent on the saxophone. Beatrice McKay was the first pianist followed by Anne McDonald who taught school from 1929 to 1933 at Education Point and Roseberry. They continued playing together until about 1948 when younger members of the family took over.

Stanton and Anne were married in 1933. They had two children - Marjorie Masson of Calgary and Clinton of Edmonton. Stanton and Anne moved to Edmonton in 1956. Anne resumed her teaching career, retiring in 1975. Stanton passed away in 1980 after a lengthy illness. Anne makes her home in Edmonton.

THOMAS AND SUSANNA COULTMAN

Thomas Coultman first came west in the spring of 1905, filed on a homestead N.W. 16-47-8, and returned to Ontario. In the spring of 1906 Thomas and his oldest son, Stanton, left Ontario with two carloads of "Settlers' Effects". Twenty-seven days later they arrived in Mannville. This was known as the "hard winter". Thomas put up a tent and shack on his homestead. Later the same year, his wife Susanna, daughter Flora, and son Garfield arrived. With lumber brought out by rail, a house was built.

Thomas was active in organizing a school district and building a school, Orbindale School on N.E. 21-47-8 in 1909. The name Orbindale was chosen from the names of the first two white children born south of the coulee in that area - Orbin Sproule, Jr. and Dale Johnson.

In 1908 a Post Office was set up in their home which was run by Susan Coultman until it was closed in 1929.

Thomas was interested in other activities as well as farming. He sold farm machinery as sub agent under D.B. McLean of Mannville as well as listing and selling farm lands in the area. He hauled food supplies from J.B. Birch in Mannville for the C.N.R. when the Fabyan bridge was being built across the Battle River. He kept these supplies from freezing in the winter by heat from lanterns. Thomas purchased one of the first steam threshing machines in the area and threshed for many of the farmers in that district. He also built a feed mill in Irma north of Charlie Lattner's machine shop where he chopped feed with his steam engine. Farmers brought their grain to town to be ground. This building, later a creamery, is where Orril Darling's home now stands.

Thomas lived in the Orbindale District until his passing in 1922 at the age of fifty-seven. Susan Coultman died in Vancouver in 1943.

FRANK CRABB

as told to Irene Crabb

I came to Wainwright with my brother Bill in March 1930, from Dorset, England. Bill first came out in 1926, returned to England in the fall of 1929 and persuaded me to come to Canada with him. I worked in the Gilt Edge district for Dave Gardiner, Jack Allinson and C. Plaxton. In 1933 I moved to the Crescent Hill district with Bill. I helped my brother cut brush on his place, W 1/2 35-45-8 in the winter and then worked for George Batchelor and H.G. Jamieson. I also worked for J.D. Collette in the Battle Heights district for two summers and one winter. I returned to work for Jamieson on Sec. 2-46-8 in 1940. In December 1941 Bill (W.M.) Anderson, who had been foreman for Jamieson, went to B.C. to work on construction for Jamieson. I then became foreman on the farm.

I was married to Mary Milton in 1942. Mary died following the birth of our first child, Judy, in March 1945. Judy was later legally adopted by her aunt and uncle, Jessie and Allen McFarland, by whom she was raised.

In 1952 I bought the farm, which included Sec. 2-46-8, 1/2-3-46-8, and the S 1/2 and N.E. 1/4-26-45-8 from



Bertha Lynn, David, Johnathan, Frank, Trev, Irene Crabb, Linda, Lynn, Gordon, and Heidi Younker.

H.G. Jamieson, also cattle and machinery.

In December 1953 I married Irene Dootson and we had four children. Heather died in August 1971 at the age of seventeen years, following open heart surgery. David is farming with me. Linda married Gordon Younker in 1979 and they are farming on land formerly owned by George Likness. Trevlyn is attending High School in Irma.

In 1974 I sold that portion of S 26-45-8 south of Highway 14 to Arthur Measor.

David married Bertha Krochnal of St. Paul in March, 1982. They have one son, Johnathon, born in April, 1983. They are presently renting Archie Cook's house.

Linda and Gordon have two girls, Heidi born in May, 1982 and Lynn born in August, 1983. Trevlyn is farming here with David and me.



Bill Walker on wagon and Frank Crabb standing near grain box.

REMINISCENCES: I recall the time one fall while I was working for Dave Gardiner that he sent me to clean the ice out of his galvanized water trough. I was given an axe and crowbar and, being a green Englishman, proceeded to chop out the ice. The threshers were blamed later for putting holes in the trough and I didn't make him any the wiser.



Dave Craig buildings - note - sod stable.

DAVID CRAIG

by Jean (Craig) Burton

David Craig was born in 1874 in Glasgow, Scotland. He worked as a typesetter in Glasgow.

He came to Canada in 1906. Dave spent the first winter with a fellow homesteader, Matt Kennedy, in a small shack which they had built on land that is probably part of the Art Pierce farm now. There they experienced what old timers refer to as the bad winter of "6 and 7" when snowdrifts were as high as their shack. In August, 1907, Dave filed on the N.E. 1/4 12-47-9-W4th. We don't know where Matt Kennedy went.

The first building Dave erected on the homestead was made of sod and he lived in it until the log house was built. The sod building was turned over to the cows and chickens. A lumber addition was later made to the log house.

Dave was one of the first to homestead in what was later to become the Education Point School district. He gave meals and shelter to many other homesteaders who came through looking for land.

The nearest railroad was Mannville, that meant at least a two day trip for supplies. The mail came to the Orbindale Post Office at Coultmans.

He worked on the railroad that was being built west from Wainwright to help out until he was able to clear some land. His sister, Agnes, came from Scotland in 1910 to keep house for him. She quickly adapted to the pioneer life.

Dave and Agnes continued to develop the farm and take part in community events.

Dave had good horses full of life and they eventually caused his death. In April he was hitching the horses to the hayrack on a wagon frozen in the ice. This startled the team and they bolted, causing Dave to hit his head, and he died immediately. This was in 1927.

After Dave's death, Agnes kept house for Chester Brown for a number of years. Agnes died in 1934.

CRAIG FAMILY

by Jean Burton

The Craigs were born in Dunlop, Ayrshire, Scotland. David Craig, with a friend, Matt Kennedy, came to Canada in 1906 and filed on homesteads in what is now known as the Education Point district. Dave Craig's land was the N.E. 6, later known as the Costin farm. Matt Kennedy's was the N.W. 6, which later became the Brown place. Dave built his first little shack of lumber on this land. During his first winter here there was a severe snowstorm that so completely covered his little shack that he did not attempt to dig his way out until the second day. Along with proving up his homestead, he worked on the railroad that was being built at that time. The following year he exchanged his homestead for the N.E. 12 and moved the little lumber shack to this location and added the larger log house, as can be seen in the picture.

In 1908 he was joined by James Craig, who filed on the S.W. 18. Along with proving up his homestead, Jim began to work at his trade, which he carried on for the next fifty years, constructing many farm buildings and as the community became more settled, he helped to build several of the rural schools. In early years his services were sometimes needed for making such things as coffins and stretchers.

The brothers were joined in 1910 by their sister, Agnes, who kept house for them, remaining with Dave until his death in 1927. Agnes accepted pioneer life very well and soon became keenly interested in the cattle and horses. She liked to carry a gun with her on long walks over the prairie and became very accurate with it.

Jim returned to Scotland in 1914, where he married Isabel Currie. They came back to Canada and spent the winter with Agnes and Dave. In the spring of 1915 Jim Craig Jr. was born in the log house. Later that year they had a homesteader's house built and a well dug on their own land. As the years went by four daughters were added to the family.

Jim's carpenter work often took him away from home for several days at a time. After living in Glasgow, Mrs. Craig found she had a lot to learn about farm life. On one occasion she had to hitch the horse to the buggy and drive to where Jim was working. She arrived without mishap, with the lines snapped into the bridle beside the horse's ears, a sure proof of horse sense.



1928 Chev car - Jim Craig, Jr., Mrs. Craig, Mr. Jim Craig, Sr., Agnes, Isabel and Jean Craig.

JAMES CRAIG SR.

(Jean Craig Burton)

James Craig was born in November, 1881 at Glasgow, Scotland. In 1906 after completing his carpentry training, he immigrated to the U.S.A. where he worked at his trade in New York, later moving to San Francisco in 1907 after the earthquake and fire. In 1908 he came to Edmonton where he filed on a homestead S.W. 1/4-18-47-8-W4, cornering the quarter his brother Dave had taken a year before. During the years he "proved up" his homestead, he did countless jobs for other homesteaders requiring his carpenter skills. These jobs covered the whole range from houses, barns, granaries, schools, water troughs etc. including coffins for the Sawdon children who died during a scarlet fever outbreak.

He returned to Scotland in 1914 to be married to Isabell Currie. They returned to Canada and lived with Dave and Agnes until a well was dug and other necessities found for their own place. Jim Jr. was born in March 1915 in the log house. When they were settled on their own homestead Jim continued his practise of shouldering his tool kit and walking out across the prairie to do carpenter work, leaving Isa to learn by experience how to milk a cow, bake bread, churn butter, and many other unfamiliar jobs.

Four girls were added to the family, Martha, Jean, Agnes, and Isabel. In 1934 the family moved to a farm near Irma where Jim continued to divide his time between farming and carpenter work until he retired to Irma in 1951, living in the P.J. Hardy (Locke) house, later moving to Wainwright where they lived until their passing, Jim in 1961 and Isa in 1972.

Among the many buildings still standing that Jim built are the Jim Thomson house, now owned by Allan Taylor, and the Jack Dalton barn now standing on the Bill Inkin farm. He donated many hours of work on the Irma United Church through its different stages of development, including the reshingling of the church steeple in his later years.

Jim Jr. took over the family farm and still lives there. He married Phyllis Thurston Crozier. Phyllis's two younger children grew up on the farm. Colleen now married lives in Kitimat, B.C. Michael has a law practice in Edmonton.



Phyllis and Jim Craig.

Martha passed away in 1929 at the age of twelve.

Jean married Joe Burton and they farmed northeast of Irma, and are now retired to the village. Their sons Bob and Wayne carry on the farming. Bruce followed in Grandpa Craig's trade and is now in the construction business in Calgary.

Agnes married Philip Iverson and now lives in Calgary. They had five daughters and one son.

Isabel has been employed by Edmonton City Health Department for the last thirty-five years.

ALLAN CRAWFORD FAMILY

by Marj Crawford

Allan and Marj Crawford were united in marriage on August 10th, 1967, the hottest day of the summer, 98 deg. F. in the shade. I can still see Uncle Leo with the sweat running down his face and fogging up his glasses as he read the scripture.

Allan was born in a little log house alongside of the mighty Peace River and can remember the steam boat going up and down the river to Fort Vermilion. I was born in Wainwright, the eldest daughter of Ted and Molly Thurston.

When we were first married, Allan worked on rigs but in 1969 we rented the Robin Johnson farm for three years. In 1972 we bought the Sid Johnston farm. Allan continued working on rigs part-time in the winter months until 1980 to help finance the breaking and clearing of our land. We now have eight children. Denise is in grade eleven, Allan Jr. in eight, Sharon in six, David in four, Brian in one and Lee, Diane and Cheryl still at home. The children are involved in 4-H and enjoy curling as well.

We are still milking cows, feeding pigs, picking lots of rocks and working long hours, but hopefully the children will be healthy and happy and remember the fun and good times as well as the ones that are not so good.

BRYAN CREASY FAMILY

by Bryan Creasy Family

Edward (Bryan) Creasy was born January 2, 1926 at Hardisty, Alberta. He is the third child of a family of eight, five boys and three girls. His parents were Ernest Edward and Vera Florence Creasy. His brothers and sisters in order are: Martin, Phylis, Bryan, Donald, David, Alan, Doris and Iris. Brother David passed away in April, 1973.

Bryan grew up on the family farm just west and north of Hardisty, Alberta. He took all his schooling at Hazelwood school where he completed grade nine. At age fourteen in 1940 he went to work for Alex Cammeron on his fur farm. He worked there for six months and earned twenty dollars a month. He worked on numerous farms in the Hardisty area and for the winter of 1947 worked at the Grandview Dairy owned by Paul Mazure of Hardisty. When he was nineteen he went down to the Dakotas combining with Jimmy Love's outfit. They started down there and combined their way back North. They had one combine and one truck.

Bryan left the Hardisty area about 1948 and went up to Lesser Slave Lake and worked in lumber camps felling

timber and skidding logs and at the sawmill for one winter returning to the farm for the summer.

About 1951 for four months from the middle of November to the first part of March his home was a little 8' x 10' tar paper shack set on the ice of Great Slave Lake and his only company was Hardy Almas. They spent the winter commercial ice fishing for Gateway Fisheries. It was hard work and at times really cold, down to forty and fifty below in the daytime. They had twenty nets, each one-hundred yards long. One pair of wool mitts dipped in water with snow on their backs to keep the wind out was all they could wear to be able to handle the nets. At first he didn't have warm enough footwear and Bryan has the thickened toenails to prove the constant frostbite. They ate twice a day, once before they went out in the morning and again when they were done for the night and fish was usually the main course. To this day fish is not his favorite food.

They never saw shore for four months. Cracks would very often appear in the ice, the odd time even under their shack.

His brother Don drove the bombardier out to them about twice a week bringing them supplies and taking the fish back.

In all Bryan spent eight or nine winters and some summers up in the north country logging at Fort St. John, Mile 101, Quesnel and Prince George, B.C. He worked at White Horse for the government and then went to Mayo on the road crew. He went back to Fort St. John and worked on a farm and at another logging camp. While at Mile 101 logging camp they had shot a black bear and Bryan found her two cubs and brought them into camp and raised them for two or three months. They were mean little things as everyone teased them. They never tired from trying to escape which was what they eventually did. They were fed scraps from the cookhouse.

Bryan spent one summer with three other men from April to November cutting the cut line for the telephone line to go from Quesnel to Barkerville. Of course there was some panning for gold on the side also but Bryan gave away his only sizeable lump of gold that he found.

Bryan decided to come back to this area in 1955 and bought the Charlie Walker farm south of Irma. He farmed there with his brothers for awhile.

In 1956 brother Don moved up to the Sid Shaw farm on NW 3-46-7-W4 for the winter. At this time brother Martin owned the Shaw place. Don wintered a herd of cattle there and then they drove them back to south of Irma in the spring. Bryan did the same thing again in 1957, only it was year-round. It was this year that Bryan met the one who was to stop the roving boy and get him to settle down. That was the year he met Bessie Pedel, his future wife.

Madeline (Bessie) Pedel was born September 16, 1938 at Hardisty, Alberta. She grew up on her father Bill Pedel's farm and attended school from grades one to seven at Glenholm school, grades eight and nine at the little Coal Springs School, and grade ten at Irma at which time she decided to quit. She worked at home for her father for a year in 1956-57. She met Bryan Creasy the Spring of 1957. That summer she went to Gull Lake west of Lacombe and worked at the summer cottage of Chuck



The Bryan Creasy Family: Darlene, Bryan, Linda, Diana, Bessie, Adele, Todd, Bill.

Maclean baby-sitting and doing light housekeeping. From there she went to the Frank Eyben residence situated between Wainwright and Vermilion near Buffalo Coulee and worked there for four months. It was also near where Bryan Creasy lived so they dated regularly. When she left there she went home for two months and then to Camrose where she worked at "Bill's Cafe" before she went to work at Les and Viv Blade's home. This meant Bryan had to drive a lot further. Bessie worked there until the end of May, when she quit to get married, as the big question had been popped in January.

Bryan and Bessie were married June 16, 1958 on a Monday in the Sharon Lutheran Church southwest of Irma. They settled down to farming on the Sid Shaw farm at which time Martin and Bryan traded farms. They were mixed farming with cattle (cow-calf), grain and at first pigs, which after awhile was dropped.

After a year or two, Bessie started raising laying hens, broilers and turkeys which she is still doing.

In 1967, Centennial year, they built a new home.

In the spring of 1980 Bryan had the misfortune to have his sight decline from glaucoma and had to sell all his cows and he rented the land out for five years. They are still living on the farm and are raising a few dogs now.

A daughter, Linda Florence, was born May 15, 1959, the pride and joy of her father who proudly showed her off everywhere they went. Linda loved horses when she was small and lived horses then. She was Wainwright

Rodeo Queen in 1977. Linda grew up to be a beautiful young woman and married Don Kinghorn on August 13, 1983 and lives in Wainwright.

A son, William Bryan, was born May 12, 1960. Bill is apprenticing for a mechanic and will be through in the fall of 1984. He wants to farm in the near future. He married Randi Moncreiff from Chauvin, Alberta on May 8, 1982. They had a son, Devin Richard, on January 23, 1984 so that makes Bryan and Bessie, grandpa and grandma. Bill and Randi live across the fence on the farm.

A daughter, Diana Jean, was born March 23, 1962. Diana is the little blondie of the family. She is a hair stylist and loves art and hopes to get into some line of art in the future. She lived in B.C. for nearly two years, but is back in Wainwright for now and is working at "Lories Hair Design".

A daughter, Darlene Marie, was born March 24, 1965. Darlene was our little curly-headed girl with naturally tight curls. She has finished school and works at the "Honey Pot" in Wainwright now.

Another daughter, Adele Madeline, was born June 15, 1970. Adele is our swimmer. She has just passed into grade nine at school. Her life is busy with her friends and playing softball.

A son, Gregory Todd, was born September 2, 1972. He passed into grade seven this year. He enjoys the 4-H Beef Club and is just an all-round great little guy.

Bryan and Bessie celebrated their twenty-fifth Wedding Anniversary in 1983. So over the years they have acquired a nice farm and a wonderful family. It's so nice to have the children so close to them.



Don and Carol Creasy, Leslie and Leanne.



Sawing wood: Bill MacKay, Peter Nilson, and Alex Smallwood.

THE DONALD CREASY FAMILY

by Carol (Matthews) Creasy

Donald (Don) Creasy was born in Hardisty, Alberta on January 5, 1928. His father, Ernest Edward Creasy, was born in England, and sailed to Canada in July of 1905. His mother, Vera Creasy, also born in England, came to Canada in 1911. After their marriage, they settled on a farm northwest of Hardisty where they raised a family of eight children - Martin, Phyllis, Bryan, Donald, David, Alan, Doris, and Iris.

Don attended the Hazelwood school where he recalls many good times. The Christmas concerts and picnics

were highlights of the year. It was fun getting ready for the concert as everyone joined in to carry in the stage, make paper costumes, and decorate the tree. White sheets brought from home served as stage curtains. The night of the big event, everyone in the district arrived by horse and sleigh to see the pupils perform. At picnics everyone enjoyed races, ball games, tug-o-wars, and to top it all off, lots of homemade ice-cream.

After leaving school, Don farmed with his brothers in the Hardisty District. During the winter months he worked in logging camps in northern Alberta and central British Columbia and one winter was spent fishing on Great Slave Lake.

In 1950 the farming operation expanded to the Frank Weise farm southeast of Irma and following the expansion of the Wainwright Military Camp to include this farm, a move was made to the Charles Walker farm south of Irma.

Don lived with Martin and his family until 1956, at which time he moved to the Kasten Farm southwest of Irma where he started farming on his own.

In January of 1960 Don was hurt in a farm accident which resulted in the loss of both arms and one leg. He was in hospital for more than a year and during this time he upgraded his education by taking correspondence courses. After working for a time in Edmonton, Don returned to Irma where, on April 10, 1962, he took over the position of Municipal Administrator for the village.

This type of work was totally new to him but Don's cheerful attitude and determination helped him overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. He completed a course in Municipal Administration and on May 19, 1982 and was awarded a certificate as a member of the Local Government Administrators of Alberta.

Carol Matthews was born in Mannville, Alberta on September 19, 1942. Her father, John Williams (Bill) Matthews was born in Alberton Prince Edward Island, and her mother, Gertrude (Smith) Matthews, in Elwood, Indiana.

Carol and her older sister, Marjory, attended Albert School. Many are the happy memories of a one-room country school. However, as the girls reached high school age, a move from the farm seemed necessary. The family moved to Irma in the fall of 1953 when Carol was in Grade VII. Carol graduated from the Irma High School in 1959. She stayed at home for two years during which time she worked at the Bank of Montreal in Irma and also continued her studies in music. In the fall of 1961, Carol entered the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. After completing three years of studies, she taught Grade VII in Tofield for two years. In 1966 Carol returned to university to complete her studies and she received her Bachelor of Education degree at the Spring Convocation, 1967. Carol accepted a teaching position with the Wainwright School Division at the Irma School. Her full-time teaching career ended in June, 1970.

Don and Carol were married on October 7, 1967. They lived in a mobile home while their new home was under construction. On October 13, 1970, Don and Carol were blessed with the birth of twins, a son and a daughter - Leslie and Leanne. At present Leslie and Leanne attend school in Irma and are in Grade VIII. Leslie is an avid sports fan and enjoys playing hockey. Leanne is a member of the Irma Figure Skating Precision Team. Leslie and Leanne enjoy being members of the Irma Alliance Church Youth Group.



Martin and Esther Creasy family in 1983. Leslie, Martin, Esther, Margaret, Kevin, Keith, Susan.

MARTIN CREASY FAMILY

Martin Creasy was born at Hardisty, Alberta. His parents Ernest and Vera Creasy had immigrated from England. Martin was the eldest of their eight children; Martin, Phyllis, Bryan, Donald, David, Alan, Doris and Iris. They lived in the Hazelwood district and attended that school. Martin quit school when he was fifteen to help on the farm, as his father was not well at that time. They lived on the edge of Iron Creek so swimming as a favourite pastime. In the spring when the creek flooded they could not get across to go to school.

In the fall of 1944 Martin joined the army and trained at Camrose and Calgary. He took his discharge the following spring when the war ended. He met his wife, Esther, when she came to teach at the Hazelwood school in the fall of 1943.

Esther was born at Czar, Alberta, the youngest child of Ross and Olive Almost, who had come west from Ontario in 1910. Their children were Byron, Beverly, Ecco, Kenneth, Hardy, Wallace and Esther. They lived in the Buffalo View district and the children attended that school. Esther finished high school at Bonnyville, Alberta, where she lived with her sister. She went on to Edmonton Normal School. She taught for half a term at Ingersol school, near the town of Peace River and then in the fall accepted the Hazelwood school, where she taught for two years before going to Ferry Hill, near Provost in 1945. In August, 1946 Esther and Martin were married and they lived in the Hazelwood district where Esther again went to teach. The school was closed in 1947 and the children were bussed to Hardisty. Esther continued to teach in Hardisty for two years.

In the spring of 1950 Martin and Esther moved to the Frank Weise farm in the Strawberry Plains district where they lived for four years. When the farm was bought by the Government for the Dept. of National Defence, Martin purchased the Charlie Walker farm and they moved to it in the fall of 1954 and still live there. Their five children, Leslie, Keith, Margaret, Kevin and Susan arrived after they moved to Irma. The children went to Irma School. When Leslie finished High School she spent one year at Camrose Lutheran Bible School and then went to Red Deer College, where she graduated as a Registered Nurse. She enjoyed nursing and travelling. She married Don Beeler in July, 1980 and they live in Courtenay, B.C. Don works for the Insurance Corporation of B.C. They have a baby boy, Barry Martin, born December 29th, 1982.

Keith drove a truck for G.N. Transportation hauling crude oil for several years, but now is farming with his dad. He married Lorna Roth from Wainwright in December, 1981. Lorna works at the Treasury Branch in Wainwright.

Margaret was married to Doug Emter in July, 1975. Doug works as a fireman at Camp Wainwright. Margaret works as an aide at the Auxiliary Hospital in Wainwright. They have two children, Kirk and Jennifer.

Kevin has worked away from home for a time but at present is working on the farm with his dad.

Susan finished High School in 1980 and went on to business college. Upon completion she accepted a position

at the Wainwright Medical Clinic. She married Garnet MacKay in October, 1981 and they live in Irma. Garnet works for the Merland Gas Company.

A son was born to Susan and Garnet 1983.



Keith, Kevin Creasy, Don Beeler, Doug Emter, Garnet MacKay, Lorna, Leslie, Margaret and Susan.

AARON CROUSE

by Lois Crouse

Aaron was the fourth son and second youngest child of Alfred and Laura Crouse of the Kinsella district. Aaron was born in a building that was later to become a granary on the Winfield farm. Until he was of school age, Aaron lived with the family on the farm in the Echo School district. The family then moved to Viking and lived there for four years in order that the older girls might attend high school. During this time Aaron received his first four years of schooling. The family returned to the farm and he resumed his education at Echo School. When Aaron was fifteen his mother passed away, followed shortly by his older brother. Aaron quit school and helped his dad on the farm, and they farmed together until his dad passed away in 1945. Aaron bought the farm in 1944, but prior to this he had attended Mountain View Bible School in Didsbury for two terms.

Lois was the sixth daughter and second youngest child of Edward and Octa Whitney of Burtonsville, a small district south and west of Edmonton. There she attended grade school to the end of grade nine, and since there was no high school available, she took grade ten by correspondence. Following this she enrolled in Alberta College, taking a stenographic course. This resulted in a position with the Alberta Government.

Aaron had spent a few winters working in the city, first in Calgary, then in Edmonton. It was while he was in Edmonton that Aaron and Lois met, and they were married on December 14, 1947, in the Burtonsville Free Methodist Church; their wedding was the first one in this little country church. Back at the farm northeast of Kinsella they resumed mixed farming - as most everyone did in those days - but Aaron liked his herd of Hereford cattle. He farmed with horses until 1949 when he bought his first tractor, a little Oliver 60.

In 1949 a son, Marvin, was born; in 1950 a daughter, Sheila; in 1953 a son, Nolan, and in 1958 a daughter, Ann

completed the family. Although Echo School was nearby, it had closed its doors the year before Marvin was to start school, so the children all received their elementary education at Albert School, some twelve miles to the east. When that school closed a few years later, the children continued their education in Irma. For the first year in Albert, this meant bus pick-up as early as 7:10 a.m. Marvin had to leave home at 7 a.m. for the half-mile walk to the bus - a very early hour for a six-year-old. During the darkest and coldest mornings his dad walked the distance with him and waited until the bus had come and gone. Little by little the bus times were set ahead until the children were able to board as late as 8:10 and by this time we also had gate service.

On the last day of May 1964, tragedy struck when Marvin, aged 15 and in Grade 9, was drowned in the river near Irma while wading and looking for clams with his neighbor and very close friend, Dale. Both Marvin and his parents had great hopes for the future; however life with the other children must go on. The school flag was flown at half-mast and many of his classmates and teachers attended his funeral. He was buried near his Grandparents Crouse in the Lake Olivia Cemetery in the Quinte district near Viking.



Lois and Aaron in 1980.

Sheila graduated from Irma High in 1968 and went on to take a secretarial course at Alberta College. Her classes there began just twenty-three years to the day after her mom's classes began. Sheila worked for a few years for life insurance companies until she left Edmonton. In 1974 she was married to Dwayne Sharkey of Irma, in a pretty lawn wedding at the home of his parents. They lived for several years at Whitecourt, where Dwayne has been employed in oilfield work. She has also worked in oil company offices since that time. Dwayne worked for a time in Singapore and is now on an off-shore drilling rig in India. They have both been active in sports, mainly softball; she as a player and he as a player and coach. He also enjoys fishing, which he is able to do right close to home. She enjoys several handicrafts, having done most of her own sewing since her grade ten Home Ec. days. She is especially interested in ceramics, which she also



Marvin, Sheila, Nolan and Ann, October, 1963.

teaches. They have purchased an acreage in Blueridge where they now live, along with daughter Stacy, who was born December 23, 1980 - most welcome Christmas present. Sheila is now employed by Blueridge Lumber.

Nolan graduated from Irma High in 1971, then took a two-year course at N.A.I.T. in Chemical Technology. From there he immediately got employment in the brand new Proctor and Gamble Pulp Mill in Grande Prairie, in the Finished Product Testing Lab. From this he advanced through various jobs in the Mill, and for a time was Unit Manager. At present he is Projects Manager for the Mill. In 1975 he married Gwen Anderson of Grande Prairie and they now have two children; Curtis was born February 3, 1977, and Celina was born February 26, 1979. Nolan and Gwen are both very active in sports; both play ball, bowl, curl, and have done some skiing and swimming also. Nolan has played hockey until the winter of '81-'82, when he went into coaching a Pee Wee team. Curtis has taken part in gymnastics, figure skating, T-ball and hockey. Celina has done some gymnastics and they both swim. Curtis attended Kindergarten last year and will be in Grade 1, in September, '83.

Ann completed her Grade 10 in Irma, and when the family left the farm and moved to Viking, she took the next two years there, graduating in 1976. She took a secretarial course in Edmonton and since that time has been employed by law firms. In 1977 she was married to Don Hafso of Viking, where they now reside. Don is a farmer and an avid curler, and can usually be found in one curling rink or another from fall till spring. Ann is interested in crafts in the line of needlework and Trichem embroidery. She also does some curling and enjoys playing Bingo. They have two sons; Darcy was born December 5, 1978, and Rodney was born March 19, 1981.

In November of 1954 natural gas was installed in the farm home, a great improvement over carrying wood and ashes. And the warmth in winter was appreciated, too. Electricity was hooked up in 1962, another dream come true. In 1964 the telephone was installed, as part of the Kinsella Mutual Telephone Company. Roads were

continually improved and upgraded and life on the farm and in the country had certainly improved a great deal in the past twenty years. In 1969 Aaron expanded his hog operation and built a modern farrowing barn, with year-round weaner pig sales. Some were sold right from the barn, but many were loaded into the half-ton and taken to nearby auction marts.

In 1974 it was decided to sell the farm and an auction sale was held in October. A home was purchased in Viking and we moved there that fall, in time for Ann to begin the school term. While completing her two years of high school she also worked part time in Lindy's Cafe. Aaron and Lois have both been employed in Viking since they retired from the farm. Aaron tends his yard and garden and Lois keeps busy with all kinds of handicrafts, and is also a member of several organizations.

During their school years in Irma the children were active in sports; Sheila in softball, basketball, girls' hockey; Nolan in softball, hardball, hockey, basketball; Ann in softball, basketball, figure skating; and all three participated in track and field. All were room reps on the Students' Union and Nolan served a two-year term as President.

ALFRED BENJAMIN CROUSE FAMILY

by Lois Crouse

Alfred Crouse came to Canada from Iowa, U.S.A. in 1909. He scouted around for land in various parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan, then in 1910 he returned and purchased land four miles from Bruce, arriving there on June 1st. He had spent two weeks on the roads, having brought along his livestock and machinery. During this time of travel he suffered with a bout of the mumps. A big snowstorm arrived also, on the first of June, and although it hindered his unloading and moving, he wrote that "everyone was glad for they said the snow was just the thing for the crops". He also wrote that the price of breaking was four dollars per acre; coal was one dollar and fifty cents per ton; horses three hundred dollars; milk cows thirty-five dollars to forty dollars; hogs ten dollars per cwt.; butter eighteen cents and eggs twenty cents a dozen.

Two weeks later, Ma arrived with their five children;



As early as 1916 the Rawleigh Wagon was a welcome visitor to farm homes. Lady peddler, Mrs. Crouse drove a smart team and closed cutter.

five year old Elmer, four year old John, two ¹/₄ year old twins, Mildred and Milton, and two month old Mabel.

The family lived in the Bruce area for six years, and during this time another daughter, Rosie, was born. Sometime during 1916, they moved to a farm six miles north of Kinsella, where they stayed for several years. Following this, they moved a few miles to the northeast, which was later to be known as the Winfield farm. It was here that son Aaron was born. They then purchased a farm from the Boyce family, nine miles northeast of Kinsella. This was to be their home for many years, and it was at this home that daughter Mary was born. Sons, Elmer, John and Milton helped the family in their farming endeavours, and bought up land nearby, and themselves started farming on their own, eventually.

Sometime, about 1927, the family moved to the village of Viking, leaving the grown sons to carry on the farming. This move enabled the older girls to complete their high school education, and the younger ones to begin their elementary education. After five years they moved back to the farm. Education was received at Quinte, Viking, Diamond Willow and Echo schools.

From the early days, the family were adherents of the Free Methodist Church, and for many years helped to support a resident minister. Services were held in various homes and in the schools. At times, when there was no minister in the district, one would come from outside points, but the family was given a good Christian upbringing.

During their early years in Alberta, in order to augment their income, Ma and Pa were agents for the Rawleigh Co. Pa was with them from 1914 to 1934; Ma was with them for fourteen of those years, but it isn't known exactly which year she started. They travelled a large territory, and were well-known to almost every family from Holden to Jarrow, and from Mannville to Irma. Their early trips were made with horses, and a very familiar sight, in those days was "The Rawleigh Wagon" coming down the road. To many a house-bound family, this welcome visit was often their only link with the outside for weeks at a time. Many of the folks still living in these districts recall that as a child they would welcome these visits, when Dad would bed down the horses for their guest, and Mom would prepare a meal and bed for the "Rawleigh Lady" or the "Rawleigh Man". The children were usually treated to a stick of gum, or some such treat. Payment for merchandise would be taken in cash or trade, such as foodstuffs. Periodically, Milton would make some of these trips with the Rawleigh goods. Ma was also, for a time, agent for the Spirrella Corset Company.

Ma's health began to fail, and after a lengthy illness she passed away on October 22nd, 1936; a great loss to the family; but also to the community and friends. The following spring, Elmer became ill, and after a short illness he passed away in Viking Hospital, on April 6th, 1937. Pa continued to farm, with the help of Aaron, until 1944, when Aaron bought the farm. After a year of failing health, Pa passed away on March 11th, 1945. At that time he had made his home with Mildred.

The family, having grown and married, have all left the Kinsella area, and are situated as follows:

John married Alice Winfield in 1932. They were blessed with four children, three boys and a girl. There are now thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Alice passed away suddenly in August, 1976 at Creston, B.C. John now makes his home in Calgary.

Milton married Audrey Brewer in 1943. They have three children, two girls and a boy. They have three children, two girls and a boy. They have six grandchildren and are enjoying retirement in Red Deer.

Mildred married Lauri Rasmussen in 1929; they have five children, three girls and two boys. They now have fifteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. They were all present to help Mildred and Laurie celebrate their Golden Wedding, in December, 1979. They make their home in Edmonton.

Mabel married Kenneth Hill in 1961. Though not blessed with children of her own, her nieces and nephews were a great joy to Mabel. She passed away, suddenly, at home in Calgary in November, 1978.

Rose married Lloyd Cameron in 1939. They have two boys and two girls. They now have seven grandchildren. They live on the farm south of Kinsella.

Aaron married Lois Whitney in 1947. They had four children, two boys and two girls. Their oldest boy passed away by drowning, in 1964, at the age of fifteen. They now have five grandchildren. They live in Viking, where they are both employed.

Mary married Alf Ricks in 1942. They have two boys and a girl. They have nine grandchildren. They make their home in Calgary, and are now in semi-retirement.

A get-together of the Crouse family would net about one hundred and twenty people, as at the end of 1979.

CHRISTIE CUMMINGS FAMILY

by Murle Larson

Christie and Bridget Cummings came from Ireland and settled in the Ross district in 1928. They had one adopted child, Mae, who attended Ross school.

Coming from Ireland I don't think they had any idea of the hardships that Alberta held for them, especially when they had no knowledge of farming. They bought a farm N.E. 33-46-9 now owned by George Fischer. They farmed with horses and were unwittingly cruel to their animals. They didn't seem to realize they needed feed, water and shelter in the wintertime. Christie got a small pension from the army (because of the loss of a thumb).

They went to Alf Larson's everyday where they were very well received and always went home with things to help them through the hard times. They were great tea drinkers and this commodity was very hard to come by during the war. Tea to them was like a drink of fresh water to us. Mrs. Cummings passed away in July, 1943 after a short illness.

Christie was a guard on the Battle River bridge during the war. After his wife died he and Mae moved to Edmonton. We heard later Mae had married and had two boys, but left the two boys for Christie to raise. Nothing has been heard of them for a number of years.

I don't think we today have any idea how hard it was for the early settlers or how some of them suffered.

THE CURRIE AND HARDY FAMILIES

by Ella McRoberts

Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Currie were born on Prince Edward Island and lived there for the first fifty-seven years of their lives.

Most of their married life had been spent on a farm in a huge house at West Cape within easy walking distance of the shore. In fact the Northumberland Straits licked at the front of our lower field.

Mr. and Mrs. Currie's six children had been raised there, and by 1916, had scattered in various parts of the world. Evelyn (Lena), the oldest, had the previous year married George Hardy, a former Islander, and left with him for his homestead in the Albert district at Irma, Alberta. Ivan and David, the eldest and youngest sons, respectively, were serving with the Canadian Army in France. Gerald, the second boy, who had married Annie McDonald, the West Point lighthouse keeper's daughter, was employed at carpenter work in U.S.A. His stint in the American Army had been short lived owing to a throat ailment. Leigh, the third son, had been elected (by the family) to remain at home and help his parents. I, the youngest of the brood, had secured (and I've often wondered why) a Teacher's Certificate.

Lena had never been a robust girl and her marriage and departure for the West had been hard on Mother. Therefore, when Leigh, in 1915, decided to go out on the Harvest Excursion, she encouraged him. He returned with "the West in his eye". We were going to move.

In March, 1916, Leigh and I left P.E. Island and in June of the same year, Dad and Mother, having sold the farms, followed us.

My brother-in-law, George Hardy, had come to the district in 1906, trekking twenty miles from Mannville by ox cart (Irma was not then on the map). He and his dog lived in a makeshift shelter while he, with the aid of the oxen, got a few acres of his level fertile soil under cultivation.

One day a major tragedy occurred. At the end of a furrow, an ox dropped dead. George thought he had been dead for quite a while, but being a faithful beast had kept on until the round was completed.

By 1915, George had acquired a house of sorts. He had started with one room and being handy with a hammer, he would add another occasionally. Like most of the homesteaders' shacks, it was well filled with apple boxes and homemade furniture, also bed bugs.

He had two sod barns, some cows which he disliked, a nondescript bull, Johnny and about twenty horses of which he was, and justly so, very proud. I remember them well - Molly, Nell, Dot, Liz, Daisy, Sis, Kit, Mazie, Brownie, Jake, Slim, etc.

One day in an attempt to escape nose flies, about a dozen of them were milling around the sod barn and managed to uncover a box in which was a pail of poisoned oats. Result - exit Jake and Slim. George didn't regret Slim's passing very much. Said he was always sticking his nose into something.

By 1915 George decided to go home on a holiday. He became enamoured with my sister, an attractive girl, then clerking in Rogers' Store, Alberton. She was thrilled with



The Currie Family in 1943: Mrs. Inkin, Senior, Neil MacMillan, Mr. and Mrs. Havelock Currie, Leigh Currie, Bill Inkin, Ivan Currie, Mina Inkin, Ella McRoberts, Dorothy Currie Cox, Alex McRoberts, Mrs. Ivan Currie, Mr. and Mrs. George Hardy, Ada Currie Jones, Iva Currie, Ruby MacMillan, Mrs. Leigh Currie, Mrs. Winnie Riley.

his stories of the wild and woolly west, also with his promise that he was going to call his favorite filly after her. In March, 1915, they were married in the old home at West Cape in the presence of George's brothers, Ivan and John and the entire Currie family, who just happened to be available at that time.

With the arrival of my parents in the Albert district, George's house, now four roomed, bulged at the seams. Leigh had acquired a homestead but a house must be built. So for that first summer we lived with George, Lena and their small son, Allen.

By that year, 1916, the Albert district was quite well settled with families from various parts of the world. Mr. and Mrs. J. Jones and his half-brother Bill Williams, came from Wales; Mr. and Mrs. R.A. (Cap) Larson were from Norway; Collie Bjork, who had married Cap Larson's daughter, Bertha, was Swedish; Owen and Barney Devenny; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fleming and his brother John and Alex McRoberts all hailed from Ireland; Mr. and Mrs. Victor Larson - he was Swedish, she was American; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pyle were English; Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Ramsay, Lew Hardy (George's brother) and Bill Matthews were P.E. Islanders; Mr. Barss and his son Leighton, who had married Mary Pyle, were from Nova Scotia; Mr. and Mrs. R. Hay were from Ontario; Mrs. Murphy and her adult son Branch came from Quebec; Mr. and Mrs. George Ambler and the Shorty Mitchell family were, I believe, from U.S.A.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Rae (Quebec) and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Matthews (P.E. Island) had left the district about 1913.

In those early years, mail day was the highlight of the week. Every Friday morning, rain or shine, Joe Fleming would hitch his driving team to the democrat and set out for Irma, armed with the grocery lists and outgoing letters to the neighbors. In the late afternoon he would wend his leisurely way homeward, pausing to deliver to those on his way, those eagerly awaited bundles of mail.

With no radios, T.V. sets, nor telephones, the weekly newspaper (Edmonton Bulletin) was our only - and belated - source of news. The war, for instance, was over three days before we knew it.

I well remember that night Collie Bjork had been to

town. I believe he stopped at every house between there and his homestead to broadcast the glad tidings - "The war is over!"

Bill and his sister Eleanor Matthews were visiting us that evening. Along about ten o'clock there was a knock at the kitchen door. (To be candid it was also the door to the dining room and bedroom, since our abode had only one room). A small, mustachied man stood there. We had heard that the Kaiser was on the run. I had a momentary feeling that it was he. It wasn't.

Speaking of that one-roomed shack, there is a story which should be told. One sultry July day, Jack Rae, the former owner, saw an approaching democrat. Feeling anti-social he instructed his wife to tell these folks that he wasn't home. He would have a sleep in the attic, which was unventilated and cramped. The guests decided to await his homecoming. Jack suffered in silence - since any movement could be heard below. For several hours his situation was not improved when Mrs. Rae lit the fire to prepare supper.

The Albert School, which also doubled as a Church and dance hall, was built in 1911. I was its fifth teacher. Preceding me were Miss Rooney Christensen, an Icelandic girl (Lew Hardy named a pony for her which I later bought), Miss Brown, Mr. Taylor and Miss Parsons.

During the summer months Church services were held every second Sunday. Mr. J.F. Reeves, an Englishman, would drive the seventeen miles, with his horse and buggy, from his homestead in the Mannville district to "contribute" as he would say, "some small service in His Name." The dedicated Christian layman invariably left us with something to think about. I still remember his pertinent sermon "Weighed in the Balance and found Wanting". These meetings were well attended. My sister played the wheezy organ and all sang lustily.

But I must admit that these church services, on the whole, were a far cry from what we stiff-necked, P.E. Island Presbyterians had been accustomed to. Our Minister, ordained and clerically clothed, would approach the pulpit with dignity, and formally issue the Call to Worship. The first time I saw Mr. Reeves he had hustled onto the platform, a trifle late, swatted a few times and said "My, aren't the mosquitoes thick".

Occasionally, George's brother John, a Salvation Army Captain, would conduct a service. John, too, was a fine Christian and a natural orator, with a sense of humor, heart of gold and a powerful pair of lungs. No one slept through John's addresses.

In those early days, dances provided about the only form of recreation. These were held on Friday nights and people, old and young, travelled miles to attend. Babies were put to sleep on benches and older children mingled with the dancers. The ladies brought lunch, and coffee, strong and black, would be boiled in someone's wash boiler. Music was supplied by local talent. On the following Monday morning school work would be at a stand still until the desks were reassembled and the pupils had retrieved their mislaid textbooks, erasers and pencils.

By the fall of 1916, the house on Leigh's homestead was built and his mother, dad and I moved there. It consisted of three rooms on the bottom floor and one

above. A ladder made by nailing cleats between 2 x 4's connected the two floors. This house, by the way, was burned down in 1923.

In our old home in P.E.I. we had five bedrooms, a dining room, a parlor and a kitchen into which this western house could have easily fitted. Also numerous porches, pantries and verandahs. (Digression - One day David and I were teaching a colt to lead, with him pulling and me pushing. We persuaded the animal in the back door, through the wide long hallway and out the front. Mother was at a missionary meeting that day.)

Mother was adaptable. She took this terrific change from Eastern to Western living in her stride. She soon had a Sunday School organized and continued with the work for many years. She, too, was a dedicated Christian and Church worker and her family were her chief interest.

In the fall of 1916, I married our nearest neighbor, Alex McRoberts. He, the second youngest in a family of seventeen, had come from Ireland to Edmonton in 1906. In 1915 he had bought the south half of 22-47-9-W4th from Jack Rae, a veteran of the South African War.

Alex, like George, was a horse-lover and when, years later, the tractor threatened to replace the horses, he was far from happy. "Just wait until the first wet spring" he would predict, "then you'll see where your tractors are". He died in 1943 and our farm has since passed into other hands.

Mother's dream that her family would again be reunited was fulfilled. The end of hostilities in Europe brought about the return of Ivan and David. Gerald and Annie came west in 1919. Within a few months all were settled within easy range of the parental home.

But the family circle was soon broken. On February 12th, 1920, Lena passed away from flu, leaving her two small sons, Allen and Ivan.

The Albert district had escaped the first onslaught of influenza, but not the second. Practically everyone was ill including Mother, who developed pneumonia. But she stayed by Lena's bedside, until the end. She even prepared the body for burial. Rev. C.G. Hocken came from Irma and conducted a funeral service. Gerald and David, the only members of the family mobile, followed the casket to the Irma Cemetery.

It was several days before I could get to see Mother. By then, Mrs. J. Jones and Mrs. Sanderson, a newcomer in the district, had recovered sufficiently to bring food to them and offer assistance.

And right here, let us pay tribute to Lew Hardy, now deceased. Living alone at that time, he was quite unmindful of his own well-being. During the epidemic he would go from house to house in the district, doing the farm chores and helping in any way he could. It was he who brought us word of Lena's death.

Gerald and Annie moved in with George, and Annie was a second mother to those little boys for a few years.

In 1921, Leigh married Kathleen Reeves, daughter of our lay minister. A second house was built on the homestead. Kathleen was a wonderful daughter to my parents over the years.

While overseas, Ivan had met a bonny lass, Margaret Stark from Dundee, Scotland. She came to Irma in 1922

and they were married in the new little home he had built. Margaret, city bred, adapted to farm life in an amazingly short time. She, like Annie, had an incurable sense of humor. If space permitted, much could be written of the antics of those two cut-ups.

In 1925, David married Sarah Parker of Ardrosson. She, like Kathleen, had taught in Albert School. (In truth, that school, over the years, provided wives for most of Albert's bachelors.) David had never recovered from his war service and Sarah proved a wonderful wife to him.

George, in 1939, married a nice little lady, Daisy Herrick. So the breach in our family circle was partially healed.



Ella (Currie) McRoberts, Margaret (Mrs. Ivan C.), Kathleen (Mrs. Leigh C.), Sarah (Mrs. David C.), Ivan, David, Leigh Currie.

Gerald and Ivan had worked at the carpenter trade for years in U.S.A. They continued with this work. Many of the present homes, barns and schools in Irma and its vicinity were constructed by them. Those two, both of the strong and silent type, understood each other so completely that they could work together, and frequently did, for an entire day without speaking.

In 1922, telephone service (government sponsored) was established. What a Red Letter Day that was! With ten or twelve subscribers to a line, we never lacked entertainment. As one little boy confided to a neighbor "when my mamma goes to the phone she puts her hand over that thing you talk into". Which left us with the idea that his mamma, like the rest of us, wasn't above "listening in".

By 1926, a few of the farmers had acquired Fords. Though "grass is cheaper than gas" was still a common saying. Roads were not good. In fact, in many places the early prairie trails were still in use.

Of the original Currie family, only one remains, myself, in the Wainwright Lodge. Gerald died April of 1982.

Mother passed away in 1945 at the age of 86. Dad lived to 93. He fractured his leg at 90, and through sheer pluck and perseverance learned to walk again. George and Daisy have both gone. Leigh passed away in June, 1960 and three years later in the same month, Kathleen

followed him. She simply couldn't carry on without him. Ivan and Margaret have both left us. David, who never knew a well day since the 1914 war, lived to be 73.

Leigh's boy Keith and his family still live in the Albert district.

Mother and Dad left many descendants - 19 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren, a total of 88, and by the time this sees print, there could easily be half a dozen more.

In closing, I would like to say: I hope and do feel that Mother and Dad and their family contributed something to the religious and cultural life of the Albert district.

Update 1980 - Ivan Hardy and his wife now live near Creston, B.C. and Allen lives in town.

THE GERALD CURRIE FAMILY

by Wilma Robertson

On the first of November 1919, in a swirling snow storm, a sad eyed group of relatives were at the O'Leary, P.E.I. railway station to bid goodbye to Annie and Gerald Currie and baby Wilma (writer).

My mother was born at West Point Lighthouse the daughter of William MacDonald and his wife Maria. She was the youngest of a family of nine.

My father was born in a farm house overlooking the ocean only a few miles away from the lighthouse. He was the son of Havelock and Ada Currie.

The Curries had started to move west during the war. Ella to teach school; Leigh, their mother and dad, to take up new land. Lena married a farmer of the same district, George Hardy, also from the Island.

Ivan and David were overseas. On their return they went west, to Irma, to join the rest of the family.

Work was very scarce on the Island and in the eastern States, where my dad had been working as a carpenter, so this prompted their move west.

The story of our arrival in Irma, in the dark, on the 8th of November was told to me many a time by my mother. It was severely cold, great snow banks and we had to travel fourteen miles by sleigh.



Iva Currie, Helen, Wilma, Art, Pete the dog, Annie and Gerald in 1940.

Uncle Leigh met us with his cheery smile and lots of straw and robes to keep us warm. This trip in the dark and cold was hard on my mother, but worst of all was her fear of a huge coyote hound that would jump into the sleigh to warm his feet now and then.

This was the "hard winter of 1919 and 1920". The homestead we had been promised was taken up by someone else the week before we arrived because my dad hadn't sent the ten dollars to make his claim. So we were homeless.

The flu was sweeping through Alberta that winter, and took Aunt Lena Hardy, leaving two little boys. We then moved in with Uncle George, and my mother took on the job of reconciling the children, washing clothes and baking bread for all of us.

Spring finally came, very late that year. A lot of stock had died from lack of feed and the last of the wild horses died trying to dig for grass.

The greatest summer sport in those early days was trying to catch wild horses. Then as in the movies of today, catching the pinto stallion was every boy's dream. Unfortunately this proud wild horse died with the rest of his band that winter.

With the spring of 1920 came better times. Schools had to be built, so Uncle Ivan and my dad, first on horseback with their tools in a gunny sack, and later by horse and buggy, went to work. It wasn't until later years the Currie Brothers drove a Model T Ford. They built many houses, barns, and Hedley's Hall in Irma.

There was very little entertainment, not even a radio, for years. We had a windup gramophone, so a new Blue Bird record from Eaton's catalogue was cause for a lot of excitement. We had many community affairs - picnics and ball games as Ambler's Lake in the summer, card parties, dances and concerts at the school in winter.

I was always fascinated by the stories told of "back home". To this day I can still hear the ring of homesickness in my mother's voice. How she longed for lobster, clams and fresh fish from the ocean.

We also loved the stories told by my dad of his first trip west, when he and Ivan had come out to work on a ranch at Langdon. While waiting for the crop to ripen, the boys took a break and went into Calgary. There they took a job building the corrals and cattle sheds for the first stampede (1912). Later in the fall they were on a cattle drive from Langdon to the Shepherd stockyards. Quite an experience for the eastern boys.

My brother Arthur was born in Irma at Mrs. Curfman's maternity home July 27, 1924. After growing up at Irma he joined the Navy, later returning to do carpenter work with our dad and then in Vancouver where he still lives. He married Betty Hartner and they have two children - Dennis, a pilot with P.W.A., and Debra, Director of Sales for the Bay Shore Inn, Vancouver.

My sister Helen was born in Mannville Hospital January 12, 1928. She went to Ontario to work, married Pete Goodfellow, had two sons - Danny, operator and supervisor at Douglas Point Nuclear Plant at Kincardine, Ontario, and Steven, insurance underwriter at Kitchener, Ontario.

Helen has been widowed and remarried to Bill Brown of Glasgow, Scotland. They now live at Elmwood,

Ontario.

When the war started in 1939, my dad was asked to go to Wainwright to start building the army camp. He was one of the first foremen on the job. He was given a crew of all Indians. They cheerfully named him "Chief Wahoo". They were rather difficult at times, but he became quite attached to them and fought for their rights when necessary.

From Wainwright my dad and mother moved to Edmonton and he then went to work for Burns and Dutton. He did a lot of the finishing work on the University buildings and Hospital - also the School for the Deaf. The most outstanding job of his lifetime was the finishing in the Jubilee Auditorium of the stage and rotunda.

In 1939 I married Les Robertson and we had five children. I moved to Edmonton in 1952 and to Hanna in 1961. I managed a Beauty Salon for one and a half years, then bought out my opposition. Through twenty years of hairdressing I became well acquainted with the people of the "Big Country".

Shortly after moving to Hanna I started raising Registered Quarter Horses for a hobby, and that soon turned into a business.

My oldest girl Mavis and two children live with me on the acreage. Elaine and husband Ron live in Hanna, and have just bought Bill Cross Men's Shop. They have three sons.

Doug lives in Toronto. He is District Supervisor with Famous Players Theaters. Norma and Jim Andrew with daughter, Jackie live in Calgary. They have a seismic business.

Greg and Carmen have two children and own their own auto glass business - Trans West Glass.

My mother passed away in 1975 and my dad in 1982. They both lie at rest in the cemetery at the West Point Presbyterian Church, P.E.I.

They were real pioneers, helping to build the west, but they never lost their love of "The Island".

IVAN CURRIE

by Mina Inkil

Ivan was born in Prince Edward Island and received his schooling there. He later went to Boston and took schooling in carpentry. He and Uncle Gerald came west in 1906 on a harvest excursion. He went back home when the war broke out and joined the McLeans Highlanders D Company Crack Shots. He went to Scotland on leave from Belgium with my mother's Uncle Peter. That was how he met Mom.

When the war was over he came to a Soldier Settlement farm at Irma. All the Curries settled in the Albert district. About 1912 Mom came to join him and they were married here. Mom said her bouquet was fire weed - that tall purple flower that grows wild. Three daughters, Mina, Ada and Iva were born to them.

I remember all the parcels of clothes and papers our grandmother sent us from Boston - they were fabulous! Mrs. Cap Larson was a wonderful teacher to Mom. We had many cups of coffee at her place. I also remember Mrs. Fred Pyle's apple pie with Devonshire cream. Was it

good! Not to be forgotten was Mom's ice cream frozen in a five pound lard pail. We ate it while listening to hockey games on the radio.

We three girls went to school at Albert and Irma. I belonged to the C.G.I.T. at Albert which Mrs. Griffith organized. I believe it was the first there.

I quit school in the thirties and worked for Mrs. Cap Larson for awhile. For three years I was employed at the telephone office for Mrs. Hewitt. I married Bill Inkin and have been farming ever since.

LEIGH CURRIE FAMILY

Charles Leigh Currie Kathleen Reeves were entitled in marriage in a double wedding at the bride's home south of Mannville on Saturday, February 19, 1921 (Dorothy Munford married Charles Reeves, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Reeves). Their honeymoon to the farm north of Irma in the Albert district was to be their home for thirty-nine years. It was here they raised their four children; Dorothy, Mary, Ron and Keith. As the former school-teacher of Albert School, Mrs. Leigh Currie finished the term, then turned her hand to family duties, for the Albert district at this time was well blessed with relatives. Farming was a full-time job for the young family but they added fox farming as a sideline for a number of years, a tradition from the homeland of Prince Edward Island. Brothers Ivan, Gerald and David Currie all raised their young families in the neighborhood, along with sister Ella McRoberts and her family. With so many close relations, the cousins grew up as one large happy family.

Dorothy, the eldest, followed in mother's footsteps to be a teacher, as did Mary. Dorothy taught at Alma Mater, Whitecloud, then west to teach in British Columbia where she met and married Allen Cox. Naval duties kept them at Esquimalt till the end of World War Two. They moved to Alberta to settle in Edmonton and work at Imperial Oil Refinery; two daughters Pat and Lynn arrived. Later a son, Allen, completed the family. Greener pastures of British Columbia lured Dorothy and Nip with Allen Jr. back to Duncan, British Columbia, where they presently reside - June, 1984. Nip works at Crofton Pulp Mills while Dorothy does part-time work at Duncan's Library. Two grandchildren complete the circle.

Mary taught school at Coal Springs, later in Peace River area but nursing at the University of Alberta Hospital claimed to be her main interest. A young patient from Radville, Saskatchewan took her eye, thus on November 22, 1947 Ron Clark and Mary were married - young ladies were not allowed to complete training when married. Two daughters - Wendy and Kathy arrived to complete the family in Edmonton, where Ron worked with the Provincial Government.

Ron Currie grew up on the farm, learning the ways of the land to help his parents. A year spent at Vermilion School of Agriculture helped him with farming interests. On November 5, 1952 Ron married a neighbor girl, Evelyn Herder. Early married years were spent farming. Then a move to Irma saw the start of "trucking" with the purchase of Leo Shaw's Trucking. The eldest offspring, Douglas, arrived while they were farming, as did Diane.



Leigh, Keith Ron, Dorothy, Mary, Kathleen.

Daughter Mona arrived during the Irma stay. Then off to Fort Nelson for a change of scenery with Transport Canada, but Alberta called and in 1961 they moved to Edmonton to work at Nisku Airport. A new job, new house and Easter morning a new daughter, Debbie, arrived to complete the family. Ron's love for truck driving was always present, so back to trucks for steady employment. Thus today "Recur Trucking" graces the highways. Evelyn does part-time work at Woodward's Hardware. The six grandchildren frequent the home nest as the offspring reside near Edmonton.

Charles Keith Currie arrived on May 20, 1935, the youngest of the family, the Baby Currie Cousin. Early years were on the farm and later he joined older brother, Ron, to attend the country school at Albert. With the completion of grade nine, a move to Irma to board at Grandma Fischer's didn't last long, high school days were over, and it was off to Calgary to stay with sister Mary where he spent a year at Tech. Joining the work force for a year at C.P. yards and later at Optical Shop didn't prove too lasting. Back to the farm with Dad and Mum, but this wasn't to be for long as ill health took its toll and on June 4, 1960 Leigh Currie passed away.

Life must continue on its way so on July 9, 1960 Keith and Maureen Dempsey were married, another girl from the Sunny Brae district who found the Albert district to her liking. We settled on the family farm, going from the binder and threshing machine stage to the combine to keep abreast of the latest ideas with farming.

At this time softball was dear to Keith's heart. As pitcher for the "Albert Royals" we travelled the surrounding country to many a ball game on Sunday. Occasionally interrupted, this was our summer activities. Ian Charles arrived on August 1, 1962 so that Mother missed Irma's 50th Anniversary of Alberta's birthday, and the big ball game on Monday when Albert beat the Vermilion Ghosts, their rivals.

We bought our first combine - Massey 17. Why we didn't set the country on fire is a wonder - for sparks sure did fly at night with it around on the hills. Gradually we got land broken. 1967 was Canada's Centennial Year. Our project arrived on Friday the 13th of January, Roberta Leigh.

The fall of 1968 saw Ian start school at Albert for one term. After that school was closed, the rest of his school

learning was done in Irma via school bus. At this time number three arrived, David Lorne on October 15, 1968. Our family was growing up so we joined the many families who spent all their winter hours at the Irma Arena. Being a little crowded for house space, plans were made in the fall of 1970 for a new house. Thus the neighbors helped pour cement for the basement on November 1. Little did we realize our new bundle to arrive that fall would be two - Amy Patricia and Alexander Keith on November 8. Time became a special item as we soon learned that Alex had a heart defect, so numerous days were spent between Vermilion and University of Alberta Hospitals. Time marches on - the Alberta Government saw fit to push Rural Gas Co-ops. Keith started on the ground floor as Area Director - the red truck could find its way to Sedgewick on its own I'm sure.

August of 1975 saw Keith and I go to the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota, for Alex's valve operation. Only people who live in a small town community know the true meaning of friends. We were one of the lucky people - Alex was able to be helped.

Our children grew, we bought a little more land. All were busy. Ian graduated from school in 1980 and this June, 1984, Leigh did likewise. We are busy with family, church and community - Irma is home to us all.



Keith Currie Family. Back Row: Ian, David. Middle Row: Leigh, Amy, Maureen, Keith. Front: Alex.

MIKE CZEPERAK FAMILY

Mikolaj (Mike) and Polly Czeperak were born and raised in the same area of Poland. Mike came to Wainwright, Alberta in 1928 and worked in the Heath area for about a year. He worked for Sheepy Smith for four years and then for the Kasten Brothers for two years.

Mike bought his own farm in the Sunny Brae district in 1937 and sent for Polly. In 1938 she came from Poland and they were married. They worked hard on the farm, Mike cleared land with an axe and built a barn by himself. Polly remembers churning thirty to forty pounds of butter per week. They kept cattle, horses, pigs, chickens, ducks and geese, besides raising a large garden.

As did most farmers of that time, they exchanged "goods for goods", as they had no money. Mike's motto was to make a trip to town worthwhile. Each time he'd



Mike and Polly Czeperak's 25th anniversary.

take a load of grain, or a load of wood, butter, or meat be it fowl or pork, and came home with the necessities of life or perhaps some money.

Mike and Polly had no children of their own, but loved children nevertheless. They were very good to the children of the neighborhood who loved to visit Czeperaks. At Easter Polly decorated eggs for her small friends. In return Polly learned to speak English by communicating with the school children.

The Czeperaks were wonderful neighbors and very hospitable people. They sold their farm to Joe Burton in 1968 and moved to Vernon, B.C. Although retired, they raise a large garden with many fruit trees.

DONALD DAGG FAMILY

Donald was born in Flatbush, Alberta on January 2nd, 1929 to Richard and Myrtle Dagg. In 1935 he became the foster son of Mr. and Mrs. George Theroux and made his home in the Batt district. He took his schooling at Batt and later worked for farmers in the area until he joined the Air Force in 1949.

In 1952 he was united in marriage to Violet Perron at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. They were blessed with one



Donald, Violet and Debbie Dagg.

daughter Debra in 1955. For a few years Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Perron (Violet's parents) made their home in the Irma district where Norman Meakins lives today, later moving into Irma but returned to reside in Saskatchewan.

In 1958 Donald and Violet returned to farm the George Theroux land. A few years later they bought the Congdon land (W.1/2 29-46-9-W4th) in the Ross school district and resided there until Donald's passing in 1974.

Debbie was a great lover of horses and was an excellent rider. It was a common sight to see Debbie standing on the back of a horse while it was galloping around the yard. She and her horse took part in the Irma parades as well as gymkhanas.



Grant and Debbie Zajic with children, Clint, Belinda, Wendy.

In 1975 Debbie married Grant Zajic of Edgerton where they make their home. Grant and Debbie have three children, Belinda, Clint and Wendy.

After Donald's death, Violet sold the farm to Tom Copeland and started an upholstery business in Irma. Later she moved to Lethbridge, Coutts and then Fernie, B.C. In 1983 she moved to the Edgerton area so as to be nearer her family.

Debbie took a hairdressing course and for some time had a shop in Irma. Grant and Debbie patented a canvas livestock carrier which is used to carry newborn calves in from the pasture.

THE OLAF (OLE) DAHL STORY

from memory N. Flueuog

Mr. Dahl, with two friends, left Minnesota and came to Hardisty, Alberta in 1907. At this time this was as far as the railroad had come, to the Battle River, where they were constructing a bridge. Here he ran a blacksmith business for a few years and then sold out in 1911 and took up a homestead on N.E. 6-45-9 five miles southwest of Irma. Ole was a pleasant young man and much liked by his neighbors.

After proving up his homestead he sold it to Mr. Jim

McDonald in 1914 and moved to Lougheed where he bought the blacksmith shop.

Later he decided to rent out his business and go to British Columbia. It was here that he met and married his wife May.

In 1920 Ole, with his wife, returned to Lougheed to live. During this time he bought a little silver grey Saxon roadster with wire wheels that caused a lot of admiring looks and interest.

Mr. Dahl sold his business in 1931 and they moved to Campbell River, B.C. to live. His wife has passed away, but Ole was living there in 1982 in a nursing home and celebrated his 92nd birthday on July 16th of that year.

DALLOW - EDWIN T.

Ted was born at Dymock, Gloucester, England, March 16, 1895. He joined the army in England in 1914 and served at Gallipoli and Palestine until the end of the First World War.

In 1921, he came to Canada, working in Toronto, before moving to the Irma district to farm in 1927. (SE 20-47-8 W 4th) On July 3, 1929 he married Edith Trumper from Herefordshire, England.

Ted and Edith are the parents of three children. Edna (Mrs. Hans Preuss) was born August 31, 1930. June (Mrs. Don Burton) was born June 28, 1932 and Eric was born December 14, 1933. They have eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Due to the depression and poor health Ted lost the farm in the late thirties. He continued to work on various farms in the Irma District. In 1959 they moved to Edmonton and resided there until Ted's death on August 5, 1966. Edith moved to the Battle River Lodge in Wainwright, July 1967. She married Vern Peterson of Wainwright, September 20, 1976. Vern passed away August 19, 1977. Edith has been a patient in the Wainwright Auxiliary Hospital since February 1979.

DANIEL FAMILY

by Ivy Mollier

My Dad, Richard (Dick) Daniel came to Canada in 1902, stopping in Brandon, Manitoba where he worked til 1908. He then married Florence Newton and moved to the Rodino District south of Minburn, Alberta to join my grandfather, grandmother and Uncle Tom who came to the Rodino District to homestead in 1907. They came to Del Norte, which was later renamed Innisfree. Grandma stayed until homesteads were claimed and a tent set up, which they lived in while building a house. Grandpa filed on the N.E. 20-48-10-W4 and this became the "home" for us all for many years. Uncle filed on the S.W. 28-48-10-W4 and when Dad finally came he filed on the N.W. 10-48-10-W4. In the wintertime Uncle Tom, Grandpa and Grandma went out to work, Uncle to a bush camp and Grandpa worked at the old Hudson's Bay Store as a clerk.

In 1909 my mother went to Edmonton where I was born. On her return to the ranch, now called Ryson Ranch, she passed away at Innisfree, so Grandma came back to keep house and raise a wee grandchild.

Uncle Tom joined the 49th Battalion in 1915 and went overseas returning in 1918. He was wounded and while in hospital met Nurse Elvina Stuart of London, England, whom he married in 1918. She came to Canada in 1919. Of this union, five children were born: Grace, (deceased in infancy); Margaret, (Mrs. A. Winfield, deceased); Stuart of Kelowna, B.C.; Ian of Edson, Alberta; and Betty, Mrs. Eric Brostrom of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

In the summer of 1920, Dad went to High Prairie to make hay for the cattle, as due to the drought that year, we were very short of feed. In the fall, Uncle Tom and Auntie Vi went to High Prairie taking with them, about 100 head of cattle. I believe they stayed there a few years, before coming back to the home farm, where they resided until moving to Kelowna, B.C. in 1948. Uncle Tom passed away in Kelowna in September, 1973, and Auntie Vi now resides in a Nursing Home in Kelowna, and we hope will see her 93rd birthday in April.



Dick Daniel and daughter, Ivy.

Dad (Dick Daniel) moved to live on S.E. 9-48-10-W4 in 1923. He later married Mrs. Helen Astley, who had five children: Laura (Mrs. Rus Hamlin, deceased); Rus was remembered as the first person to haul grain by truck to Minburn. Laura and Rus both died in 1929 within two weeks of each other. Mrs. Bert (Gertie) French of Edmonton (deceased 1981), Belle (deceased 1947), Reginald (Bud) of Ponoka, and Irvine of Tofield. To this union, one daughter, Verna, was born. She married Roy Wood and lives south of Mannville. They had two children, Douglas (deceased 1981), and Edith of Edmonton. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Daniel sold their farm and retired to Mannville, where Helen died in July 1956, and Dad in 1979.

My Dad was a great lover of horses and we ranched for many years, raising both horses and Angus cattle. Dad was also the local veterinarian. I think some of Dad's happiest days he spent in the saddle looking after his horses and cattle. Grandpa was a wonderful gardener, and had what is known as a "green thumb". We always had a big garden, flowers, fruit and berry trees, and vegetables, many of which he loved to share with others. Uncle also became a good gardener in his later years.

Whenever a neighbor was in need of help, a Daniel was there. I well remember in 1919-1920, when the flu epidemic was on, my Dad was kept busy doing the chores for the neighbors and going for the doctor and nurses. He used to take me with him often, and before we went into a house, he used to give me a wee sip of whiskey and take one himself. When we moved on, we'd have another. He used to say it killed the germs, and do you know I never got the flu!

Auntie Vi being a Registered Nurse, found herself very busy when she came to Canada. She was a midwife for many years in the Rodino District and brought many babies into the world, traveling over bad roads and through many storms to help someone in need.



Mr. and Mrs. T.W. Daniel, Sr. and Miss Kennedy, a teacher at Rodino School.

THE WILFRED DANIELS FAMILY

by Wilfred Daniels

The wheel has turned more than one quarter since we moved from Irma. We always look back on our days there with a certain amount of nostalgia. It was a pleasant interlude in our lives. We feel deep sorrow for the loss of those friends who have passed away in the past few years. They were all people of stature who had a strong contribution to make to the life of the community. They will be sorely missed.

When we arrived in Irma in 1955 from Vilna, Reg, our oldest, was taking his second year in Engineering and Fred his first year. Linda was in grade nine and Doug was charming the teacher in grade five. Karen was two years old at that time. I was the station agent in Irma until 1963 when we moved to British Columbia.

Reg has three children, Craig taking his second year in the U. of A., Karen just graduated from high school, and

Kathy going into grade ten. They make their home in Fort Saskatchewan.

Fred and Anna have two children, Jamie ten years old and Normandy four. They make their home in Vancouver.

Linda, Mrs. Peter Zuege (the girl who wanted to be short stop) lives in Calgary and has three boys, Danny now ready to make a try at medicine, Allen fifteen, and Mark ten. In spite of the demands on her time she has the same sparkle and bounce she had as a girl.

Doug and his wife Nancy live in Ottawa. They have two fine youngsters, Andrew four, and Evan one.

Karen, Mrs. Ken Messenger, lives in Comox, British Columbia. They have two great kids, Leah and Shelley, twelve and nine years respectively. Shelley has all the aspirations her aunt once had. Their mother has come a long way since leaving Irma. She is a girl of many talents. They run an auto supply house in Comox. Karen works in the store, keeps the books, runs a sparkling house and in her spare time acts as leader of the Guides. That is what one could call a full life.

As for ourselves we try to keep active in mind and body and enjoy reasonably good health. We have retired in Hope and have a lot to be thankful for.



Ress and Alice Darkes, 1951.

RESS DARKES

Ress Darkes was born in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in 1878. He came to Alberta in 1914 and settled in the Melbrae district north of Lougheed.

Alice Clark was raised by her grandparents during her school years as her parents lived too far from a country school for her to attend. She took her Normal School training at Camrose and taught her first year near Sylvan Lake. In 1923 she came to Melbrae where she taught for two years.

Ress and Alice were married in 1925 and to this marriage three children, Lucille, Lois and Alan were born. Ress owned a threshing outfit during the twenties and thirties.

Alice was very interested in young people and was instrumental in starting teen dances so the young people could learn to dance. She directed many plays put on by the Ladies' Aid. Alice taught Sunday School at Melbrae.

One year there were four students of high school age in the district, but the parents could not afford to send them

to school in town. In those days you had to board the students in homes. Alice decided to give these grade ten students instruction at home. Eventually they were taught by the Melbrae teacher at the school. Edith Routledge from the Valley School joined the group at Melbrae and rode from home to take grade ten. Edith is now Mrs. Art Gwinn.

During the war years Alice returned to teach at Melbrae. In the forties they bought the Roy Bronson land in Silver Lane and moved there. Alice taught at Fullview, Irma and Wainwright.

In 1952 they moved to Wainwright where Alice taught grades ten, eleven and twelve. In 1956 Alice and Ress were tragically asphyxiated in their home.

Lucille became a stenographer but later joined the service. She married and lives in Ontario where they have one daughter.

Lois was an excellent softball player and played for the Mannville Bluebirds for several years. She became a stenographer and worked in the Family Allowance Department for years before retiring in Edmonton. Lois never married.

After leaving school Alan became a commercial painter. Later he became a butcher and owned a shop in Hughenden and then in Hinton where he still lives. Alan sold his meat business and today drives a school bus as well as paints.



Lois, Alice, Alan and Lucille Darkes.

GORDON F. DARLING

by Gordon Darling

I was born in Saskatchewan at the Red Cross Outpost Hospital in the Settlement south of the hamlet of Prairie River. My parents, Eugene (better known as Jake) and Orril Darling, were then living on a bush farm about four

miles south of Prairie River. Shortly after I was born our family moved to an acreage on the main road about one and a half miles south of Prairie River. I was the youngest of a family of two older brothers and three older sisters.

Our home had no modern conveniences but we had interesting experiences growing up in a large family. Wood was used for heating and cooking and most of our water came from the river across the road and down the hill. This was carried up by pail and, when big enough, everyone had his own pail suited to size.

When I was school age I walked the mile and a half to Prairie River School with my brothers and sisters and neighbor children living beyond us. In the summer of



Emory and Gordon, Emory down with the mumps.

1952 after my first year at school the family moved to Alberta from where our parents had come. My mother started back teaching school and taught at the rural school of Sydenham north of Wainwright for the year 1952-1953. Some of the people I got to know there were the Eeles, Goulds, Marchands and Woodwards.

When the school year of 1953-54 began, the family had moved to the Holt Hutterite Colony northwest of Irma where my mother taught, and where with my one brother and two sisters I attended Batt School. There I met lifelong friends: Marks, Smiths, Bridgemans, Meakins and Lingleys.

I went to Batt School from grade two through to grade five. The first year we went there we rode horses borrowed from Fischers. This was a new experience. After that we acquired a car and Mother drove us in the mornings and we often walked home at night. The school Christmas Concert and other social activities at the school are well remembered events. At school we played ball and on several occasions played against the Jarrow School team when Mrs. Margaret Millar was the teacher there.

The last year we lived at the Colony the Batt School was closed and we went to Irma by bus. Before and during that time my older brother, Emory, and I belonged to Little League Baseball in Irma and especially during the summer Mother was kept busy driving us to Irma for practice or play as we were on different teams.

In 1958 our family moved into Irma and Mother began teaching there. We lived in a small house belonging to Mrs. Long, south and across the alley from the United



Janice, Gordon, Sherry and Scott Darling.

Church. By that time our family consisted of Mother, Jean, Emory, and I.

I continued school in Irma until the end of grade ten. During those years I played baseball, hockey, and I curled. Hockey was my favorite sport. I played goal for a number of years and had a rather unnerving experience. Then goalkeepers didn't wear masks and had nothing to protect the face against flying pucks. On one occasion, while playing junior hockey in Wainwright, I got hit with a puck just below the left eye and along the nose. I presume I prevented a goal for the opposition but it required several stitches to close the gash that left a permanent scar. From then on I was rather wary of flying pucks and am all in favor of face masks for goalies.

Weekends and summer holidays I spent as much time as I could at the farm of Tobe Smith. Mother called it my second home. Here I learned to drive tractor, combine and other farm machinery. Mother said the Smiths spoiled me as they let me drive their car without proper insurance coverage when Mother wouldn't let me drive hers. Even after I left school I worked at Smiths for a short while.

Later I worked at Imperial Lumber in Irma under Ronald Rae and at the Edmonton Stockyards. In 1967 I began temporary employment with the Northwestern Utilities. I continued working for them in the spring and summers of 1968, 1969 and 1970 usually finding work in Edmonton for winter months. While with the Utilities I learned to operate the shovel, back-hoe and cat, going to Vermilion, Hughenden, Czar, Hardisty and Oyen.

In the winter of 1970 I started working for Molesberry Chemicals, that sprayed the roadside trees, and stayed with them until the fall of 1972. During that time I suffered from a rash due to being allergic to the tree sap so went to work at Majestic Heating Products of Edmonton in their sheet metal shop.

In October of 1971 I married Sherry Liddell and we made our home in Edmonton. In March of 1974 a baby girl, Janice Ilene, was born to us — a very welcome addition to our family.

In July of 1974 I quit my job at Majestic Heating for employment again with the Northwestern Utilities in Edmonton on maintenance and in time was put on permanent staff. We had acquired a mobile home and lived in the Mobile Village at Winterburn.

In January of 1977 we had another welcome addition to our family - a boy, Scott Alan.

In the fall of 1977 I was given a promotion as assistant agent at Edson so we bought a home there and moved. We were happy living in Edson and made many friends there but I was not happy with the work I was doing. In the summer of 1979 we moved back to Edmonton or Winterburn when I was able to fill an opening on maintenance with the Company.

I have since continued to work in that department in Edmonton and am happy with my work. We now live in a double-wide mobile home at Winterburn and get involved in community affairs. Both Janice and Scott are going to school and doing well. This winter of 1984 Scott joined a Mini-Richard hockey team and is very thrilled with the idea of playing hockey. I am helping to coach his hockey team and with much help from Sherry manage to keep track of sweaters and hockey equipment. I also manage to curl the odd time on a company team.

"For other Darling family stories refer to Brown, Doris M.; Harrison, Marian A.; and Smith, Jean N."

J. ALLAN DARLING

by J. Allan Darling

I was born in Wainwright Hospital, the oldest son of Eugene and Orril Darling then living on their farm just outside of Irma. Eventually the family moved to a farm southwest of Vermilion and then to a brush farm four miles south of the hamlet of Prairie River, Saskatchewan.



Jake Darling and Allan in 1940.

Here my dad worked in the bush, cutting and hauling pulpwood. While living here I began school at Muncy, a country school southeast of our home, a new experience for me.

The family later moved to an acreage about one and a half miles south of Prairie River. As my dad was in hospital I helped with chores as we had two cows and



William, Allan, Cleora, Christine, Wendy and David.

some chickens and heated our home with wood. Water had to come from the river across the road and down the hill and all family members who were able, helped carry it.

By this time I had three younger sisters and two younger brothers. When the school year began again with my oldest sister I went to Prairie River School a mile and a half walk. As we lived on the main road we were often accompanied by neighbor children who lived farther away. Finally all six of us were attending school in Prairie River. During the school years at Prairie River I made many good friends and lasting friendships. As my ambition was to be a farmer I enjoyed visiting and helping on neighboring farms.

The river provided summer and winter recreation. In the hot summer weather we swam in it, the old swim hole being very attractive if not somewhat dangerous. In winter we cleared the ice and skated, no covered arenas or artificial ice.

When I was older I helped the neighbor farmers and peeled pulpwood to make much needed spending money.

In the spring of 1952, when I was no longer attending school, I came to Irma, Alberta to live with Uncle George Fischer, Aunt Marjorie and their family. As the Fischer boys were attending school I helped on the farm gaining much needed farm experience and knowledge. At the end of three years not being needed, I left there and worked on the farm for Tobe Smith for a couple of years. In the following years I worked on farms for Bill Inkin, Stuart Fenton, Martin Creasy and Smith again. With Howard Helm I went to Calgary and got work on Assiniboine Bridge Construction at Cardston and then on the brushing crew of Ace Construction for six months. I then worked on power lines for Ace Construction for two years at Waterton, Drayton Valley, Lethbridge, Whitecourt, and Valleyview.

During this time I married Cleora Garvie of Kinsella and we lived in Edmonton and Violet Grove until work ran out. We moved to the Irma District where I again worked for Stuart Fenton and then Donald Haun. We

rented the Bill Boyd farm north of Kinsella and began farming, augmenting finances by winter work in the oilfields. After four years we moved into Kinsella and I worked continuously in oilfields for Bradnor Oilfield Construction at Zama, Rainbow Lake, Valleyview, and Swan Hills.

In 1973 I finally realized my ambition of purchasing a farm of our own and we bought three quarters of land northwest of Kinsella. While getting established there I drove a caterpillar tractor for several winters for Location Oilwell Construction.

We have a family of two boys and two girls. William, the oldest, and David, the second, attended school first in Kinsella and then in Viking. William took grade twelve and completed a Heavy Duty Operator's Course at Keyano College. He is presently working at the Petro Can Battery north of the Buffalo Coulee. David graduated in June 1983 and has been employed as farm help for several years in spring, summer and autumn. He has played hockey for the Viking Gas Kings. Wendy, now in grade nine at Viking school and Christine, in grade four have taken figure skating. Wendy and the boys also took swimming and Wendy is a member of the Viking 4-H Light Horse Club. William had also belonged and is the horseman.

We are carrying on mixed farming - raising grain and cattle and sometimes pigs, working rented land as well as our own which makes a full time job. It's a great life if one doesn't let the headaches and gamble of farming get one down.

Since writing, our lives have been saddened by Cleora's passing May 31st, 1984.



Orril (Fischer) Darling when 3 years old. Taken at back door of homestead house. Note the clapboard siding, sod banking, rain board and back step.

ORRIL (FISCHER) DARLING

by Orril Darling

I was born and raised on the homestead farm of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Fischer, in the Alma Mater District northeast of Irma. Being a colicky baby I cried my way through my first half year and was the partial cause of my mother having a physical breakdown when I was about a year old. Mother said they didn't know what

I looked like until I was a year old because I never stopped crying long enough for them to find out. During her illness Aunt Addie and Uncle Frank Johnstone looked after me. I had stopped crying by that time.

My growing up years were similar to most other young people at that time on a central Alberta farm. I learned to help on the family farm, doing house chores, feeding chickens, pigs and calves and milking cows. I learned to ride horseback and our chestnut pony, Glory, carried us many miles hunting cows or just getting us places. I also rode him to Irma to High School in the spring and fall. Glory was a prairie raised cayuse, a tough little horse that rode like a rocking chair. He was very sure footed and when riding across open range on a steady canter you felt him take that extra leap and knew he had cleared a badger hole.



Jake Darling family. Jean Smith, Allan Darling, Doris Brown, Emory Darling, Marion Harrison, Jake, Orril and Gordon Darling.

Early memories are those of church at Elliott's and Mary Elliott's good cookies for small church goers. Later there was church and Sunday School at the Alma Mater School where I eventually taught a class of small fry. Alma Mater was a newer school and had a furnace but was not kept heated during the weekend in winter. On church Sunday afternoons someone usually lit the fire a bit early but the place didn't get really warm until near the end of the service. One such Sunday I proudly wore the new heather brown reversible broadcloth coat with celluloid topped shank buttons that Mother had made me. I hung it on my school hook over a register in the girls' cloakroom. It got quite warm and when I went to put it on the tops of the buttons had melted and dropped off. I felt so badly that I cried though I was quite a big girl. Lance King felt sorry for me and tried to comfort me. Mother was able to replace the buttons and I was much happier.

Christmas morning was an exciting and memorable time. In those early times in winter our front room and bedrooms were shut off from the kitchen during the night and the front room heater well banked with coal. It got

quite chilly before morning and Dad always got the fires burning well before we got up. On Christmas mornings he'd barely get the fire going well when he called "Merry Christmas" and out of bed we children bounded to see what Santa had put in our stockings. Shivering and shaking in fleeced lined pyjamas we explored our stockings running to show Mother, who had the good sense to stay in bed, what our surprises were. We looked forward later to going to our uncle's and aunt's place, the Johnstone's for Christmas dinner. Our families gathered there for a number of years for Christmas Day as well as friends and bachelor neighbors with no families near, especially Angus MacMillan. After dinner there was the excitement of Santa Claus of whom I was petrified and sat safely on my father's knee and very politely thanked Santa for each gift. An excerpt from Mrs. Shaw's 1911 diary states, "We had our Christmas dinner at Frank Johnstone's - Mr. Fischers and MacMillans there also". New Year's dinner was a special occasion at our house.

The Christmas concert at Alma Mater was a highlight of the school year and hours before the event were spent practicing songs, drills, monologues and dialogues. A tree, Santa Claus and gifts were a special part of the concert evening and travelling by team and sleigh to other school concerts was eagerly looked forward to.

Threshing time and threshing crews were a special fall event. I remember Coultsman's steam threshing outfit with its water tank wagon and straw hauling rack. It was a time of hard work but also a fun time as the jolly crews were mostly made up of local people. As I grew older I helped with lunches and meals as well as outside chores.

A now amusing incident, that I vaguely remember, was when my brother and I were mysteriously locked in the old sod henhouse, a forbidden place, as we had apparently been breaking precious eggs. Unable to get out, as our dad had, unseen by us, latched it from the outside thinking to teach us a lesson, my brother, George, decided we should dig our way out under the dirt floor. He encouraged me by an emphatic "Dig, Babe, dig" a name he then called me. That seemed too slow and futile for him so he picked up an old root or piece of board and smashed a good sized window in the south wall. (Times were not especially prosperous and glass didn't come cheap even in those days.) The door was as mysteriously unlocked and we escaped further punishment and I believe learned a lesson.

Our early transportation was with horses. I remember going with my mother by horse and buggy to Irma to shop or take cream to town or we went to visit neighbors. Sometimes we used a team and buggy or Angus MacMillan's democrat with two seats. Later when I was older I drove horse and buggy or team and buggy and brought many cans of cream to the Irma Creamery, which was on the site where I presently live.

My public or elementary school education began in the Irma cottage school for three months and continued later at the Alma Mater School about a mile from our home. After passing grade eight departmental exams, I attended the Irma Rural Consolidated High School for grades nine, ten, and eleven all taught by Mr. I.S. Reeds. We were in the old cottage school for grade nine and then moved in the new high school built by the Simmons'. To



Orril (Fischer) Darling riding sorrel pony called Glory. Note shingled homestead house in background.

get grade twelve one had to go to Wainwright and for most families that was too costly. I then attended Camrose Normal School for ten months and emerged with a Second Class Teacher's certificate. I first taught for two years at Cobourg School south of Viking and later at Avonglen, Roseberry and a few months at Battle Heights. I have many pleasant and interesting memories of those teaching days and I think I learned quite a lot also.

In 1935 I married Eugene (Jake) Darling and became a farmer's wife and thought my teaching career was over. We farmed near Irma for several years and in 1937 our son, Allan was born. We farmed near Mannville for a short time and eventually moved to Prairie River, Saskatchewan where Jake worked in the bush cutting and peeling pulpwood.

By this time we had six children, three daughters, and two more sons born in Saskatchewan. My husband had a mental break and was in hospital for many years. I was left to cope with raising six small children on a limited income. However I was thankful for my own good health and that of the family and with the help of kind friends and neighbors, unforgettable ones, we managed very well. The children early learned to take responsibility and were a great help. They all went to school at Prairie River, a distance of one and one half miles, that they walked. At one time all six were taking lunches to school and it seemed I baked bread every other day.

In 1952 the family and I moved back to Alberta where I began to teach school again. I was rather rusty after being away from it for seventeen years. I taught one year at Sydenham School, north of Wainwright, then five years at the Holt Hutterite Colony and finally in Irma. Allan had left school by this time and was working out, Marian was taking grade nine in Irma and the other four attended School at Batt the first years I was at the Colony. We attended social activities at the Batt School and got acquainted and made friends with the people in the district. When the Batt School was closed the students were bussed to Irma.

In 1958 I joined the staff of the Irma School. This was the first time I had taught in a graded school and it was a pleasant and satisfying experience to teach a single grade.

Here, too, I began teaching second generation children. The association and help of other teachers was a definite pleasure.

While teaching I took correspondence courses, evening credit and Summer School courses and obtained a Professional Teaching Certificate. I retired from teaching in June of 1974.

Jake passed away in December of 1973 and I live alone in our home purchased from Mrs. McLean that was the site of the old Irma Creamery.

Our six children are married and established on their own. They are all reliable and responsible citizens of whom I am justly proud. At time of writing Allan farms northeast of Viking, Marian Harrison lives at Hardisty, Doris Brown in Edmonton, Jean Smith, a farmer's wife, northwest of Irma, Emory was at Whitehorse, Yukon, now is at Prince George and Gordon at Winterburn. I am busy with community activities, family and have had several interesting vacation trips. Maybe there are still interesting experiences in the days ahead.

W. EMORY DARLING

by Emory Darling

I was born in Sask. at the Red Cross Outpost Hospital in the Settlement south of the hamlet of Prairie River. My parents, Eugene (better known as Jake) and Orril Darling were then living on a bush farm about four miles south of Prairie River. By that time I had one brother and three older sisters.

When I was a little over a year old our family moved to an acreage about one and a half miles south of Prairie River. I then had a younger brother, Gordon.



Gordon and Emory at Sydenham school.

When I was old enough I attended Prairie River School, walking the one and a half miles with my brother and sisters and the last year my younger brother as well. We were often accompanied by neighbor children living a bit farther from the school one of whom was an older boy fond of younger children who was very solicitous of my well being. In winter we had to be warmly dressed as the weather was very cold. There were a few black bears around and on one or two occasions going to or coming

from school we saw one. Once we at first mistook one for our black milk cow that often went astray.

In the summer of 1952 the family moved to Alberta, where my parents had come from. My mother started back teaching school and the first year taught at the rural school of Sydenham north of Wainwright. Some of the students I got to know there were the Eeles, Woodwards, Goulds and Marchands.

When the school year of 1953 began the family had moved to the Holt Hutterite Colony northwest of Irma where my mother taught and my two younger sisters and my brother and myself attended the district school of Batt.

Batt was a one-roomed rural school where I took grades four to seven, where there were from seventeen down to thirteen students. The school was a community center for the friendly mixed farming district. This period of time recalls fond memories of school and other ball games, outdoor winter sports, horseback riding, country dances, and the mumps at Christmastime. Due to the mumps I missed attending Grandpa and Grandma Fischer's golden wedding anniversary. I taught myself to swim in the large slough below the old Holt ranch which served as our teacherage home. I developed an avid interest in baseball through many hours of playing catch with my brother. I played on little and pony league teams in Irma and tagged along whenever possible for an opportunity to spare on the community men's softball team at local sports days. When the rural school closed in 1957, I spent the next year riding a bus to attend grade eight at Irma.

In the summer of 1958 my mother accepted a teaching position at the Irma School and our family, then living at home, consisting of my third sister, brother and myself relocated to town. The next four years were high school days, one of the most enjoyable times of my life. Plenty of time was spent on sports (hockey, curling, basketball in winter, softball and football in summer) homework, hanging around with the guys and more than an occasional trip in the West Albert District to visit a certain member of the opposite sex.

A shortage of money several times meant overestimating the gas mileage of the family car and having to rely on the good nature of certain farm people and their fuel tanks in the small hours of the morning. Lucky for me the tanks weren't locked then. Summers were spent working long hours on farm jobs which provided pocket money for the following school year. Several summers and into the fall I worked on the Phil Holt farm.

Upon graduating I spent two years working at part time jobs and upgrading my marks to achieve senior matriculation. One semester was spent at Lindsey Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer. In the spring of 1964 I joined the Hudson Bay Co. northern stores as a clerk-in-training and spent the next sixteen months in the rather remote communities of Black Lake, Sask. (where I spent my first Christmas away from home) and Telegraph Creek, B.C. A fur trader I was not, but learned enough about life to know there must be something more challenging for me. The experience kindled an interest in business and finances and prompted enrolling in a two year Business Administration



Emory, Connie, Stacey and Lindsey Darling.

program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton. While there I supported myself through part time employment with the Alberta Liquor Board and the good graces of my married sister and her husband where I was a star boarder. I also received a grant from the Irma Home and School Grant Fund.

Winning the flip of a coin in law class resulted in a blind date and a life long relationship with Constance Tizzard, the pretty brunette with the snippy nose and freckles, who was to later become my wife. Who says some of our most important events are not determined by chance? Connie and I were married Nov. 5, 1966, at Ribstone United Church and lived in a small suite in Edmonton with her being the principal wage earner until I graduated as a credit major from N.A.I.T. Business Administration Program in May 1967.

Pursuing a credit and finance career path I was employed with Canada Packers, International Harvester Cred. Corp., and Inc. Holdings in Edmonton between 1967 and 1971 when I joined the Industrial Development Bank (later to become the Federal Business Development Bank) as a credit officer. This position led to transfers to Grande Prairie, Regina and eventually the office of branch manager at Whitehorse, Yukon in July 1979. A subsequent move in May 1983 brought our family to Prince George, B.C. where I am continuing to function in a management capacity with the Bank.

Connie's and my marriage has been blessed with two "Darling" children a daughter, Stacey Rachelle, and a son, Lindsey Eugene, both born in Edmonton in 1967 and 1971 respectively. Through the children's involvement in school and community activities, their mother's virtually steady employment in office and mine in banking administration, our family life has always moved at a good pace. My personal interests include active membership in the Kiwanis Club and participation in community clubs and education upgrading opportunities.

DAUGHERTY, J.W. (BILL) SR. FAMILY

by John W. Daugherty Jr.

Dad came to Canada in 1909. He was born on the Isle of Man October 11th, 1882, and was the eldest boy in a family of thirteen children. He served his time as a butcher, then decided to follow his two sisters and one brother to Canada.

Arriving in Montreal June 3rd, 1909, he started work the next day at Long's Packing Co., Bluery St., Montreal, as a butcher for \$6.00 a week. Soon he was heading west, and finally owned his own butcher shop on Kingsway, Vancouver.

After two years he sold out to go homesteading at Fort Fraser, B.C., with a brother, Philip, who had just arrived in Canada. Proving up on the homestead they sold out, and moved to the prairies, arriving in Melbrae and Silverlane districts in 1915, where they both took up homesteads.

It was here Dad met Mother; May Harding, daughter of Henry and Maria Harding of Melbrae. They were married New Year's Day 1919 at Irma United Church.

I was the eldest of their four children born whilst we lived on the farm, three more were born later in Wainwright. I remember as a child being carried out through the front door of our house, when an explosion burnt the house down. We then moved in with Uncle Philip, and at this time a baby brother died aged six weeks. Dad built another house. In late August 1925, he had just pulled two binders into a field of wheat next to the house, when a bad hailstorm pounded the crop completely into the ground.

Dad decided to get off the farm and called an auction sale, where he sold all his purebred Clydesdale horses, and purebred Shorthorn cattle. He had won many ribbons and prizes for showing his stock, at fairs and exhibitions. I can remember the Goose Creek fairs south of Lougheed.

In 1926 we moved to Wainwright, where Dad bought the "Model Meat Market". This was destroyed in the Wainwright fire of 1929, when the business part of town was burnt down. To save his car he took it to an open area, away from the buildings; in the strong wind that was blowing, a flying shingle from the fire, which had got going in the lumberyard, landed on the car and burnt it up too.

Later Dad took over a machine agency, but developing eye trouble was advised by Dr. Wallace to go back to the Isle of Man, for awhile. All the family went over in 1938, and he took over the farm which had been in the family since 1596, he had inherited it being the eldest son. Dad's eye problems improved, but in 1939, war was declared and we could not get back to Canada.

During the war years we had frequent happy visits to the Island, by members of the Canadian Forces, among them Harold Lisson, Lilian and Elsie Tweedy, Del Galoway and James McClements, all from the Melbrae and Coldspring areas. By 1946, all our family had returned to Canada.

Mother died in January, 1964, and Dad moved into Battle River Lodge. He passed away in March, 1976, in his ninety-fourth year. Always a great reader, he only



Bill Sr., Philip, Philip's wife, Martha and Bill's wife, May. May, 1949.

used glasses in his later years, and still had his own teeth. A non smoker and non drinker all his life, his strong faith in God remained with him always.

Their children and their families, are spread over Canada, Hilda in Oshawa: Vic, Calgary: Doug, Edmonton: Robert, Ottawa: Frank, Langley, B.C. and myself in Kinsella.



Bill Daugherty and brother, Philip baching, 1915.

DAPPER DAVIES FAMILY

by Minnie Jackson

Mr. and Mrs. Dapper Davies and young son Johnnie came to Irma in 1926 and settled on the quarter of the S.W. of 7-46-8-W4th under the Soldiers Settlement Plan. Dapper was a veteran, who served in the British Army, attaining the rank of Sgt. Major in the Welsh Fusiliers, and had spent several years in India. Dapper was known as the strong man, as he could bend a six inch spike into the shape of a U, also he could twist a horse shoe in different shapes.



Dapper Davies.

They farmed there until the summer of 1928. They moved to Edmonton where Mr. Davies received a job in the Royal George beer parlour.

His wife passed away soon after they moved to Edmonton. I don't know what happened to Mr. Davies and his son John, they seemed just to disappear.

BOB DAWSON FAMILY

by Bob Dawson

My father, George Max Dawson, homesteaded eleven miles south of Irma on the Hardisty-Irma road in 1909. For the first winter our home was a small log house. We lived on the homestead four years before we had a school. I attended Bronson school, but as I was nine years old when we came to this country, my school years were few.

I left home at the age of seventeen and took a job as engine wiper for the C.P.R. at the roundhouse in Hardisty. I then went to Prince George, B.C. where I worked in the bush making railroad ties. I worked at this job during springs and winters, returning to Alberta for harvest.

I met my wife, Carrie, in Prince George and we were married in 1926. We came to Alberta in 1927 settling on a C.P.R. quarter of 44-9-W.4th six miles south of Irma. We raised a family of two boys and a girl of whom we were most proud. As we were four miles from school and with no school bus, the children rode horseback to Strawberry Plains.

We quit farming in 1944 and moved to Irma to send the children to high school. I went to Killam and started a garage business. The family moved there in 1945 where the youngsters finished school. I worked twelve hours a day seven days a week for twenty-nine cents an hour.

In 1968 I sold the garage business and we moved to Camrose. In 1969 we moved to Kelowna, B.C. where Carrie passed away in 1976. Our fiftieth wedding anniversary would have been that year in September.

Murray, our oldest son, has two sons Wayne and Bruce. His wife died leaving him with two small children. He later remarried and is living in Banff. He is with his first and only job after twenty-seven years as Chief Park Warden. His work has been at Jasper Park and an Ontario National Park.

Daughter Joyce's first job was cashier with the

Treasury Branch in Camrose. Later she transferred to Edmonton where she had a shocking experience. Just as the branch opened, in walked a robber with gun in hand. Joyce was the centre of three cashiers. The robber told them to put their hands up and then pointed the gun at Joyce, telling her to hand over the money. She stood paralyzed for a few moments. Fortunately, police were walking by and got a sign of the hold-up. Soon after that Joyce left the bank and took a job as a secretary. She is married and has a boy and two girls so her main occupation is housewife and baby raiser.

My youngest son, Bud, has a garage and was a Ford dealer for twenty-seven years in Peace River where he still lives. He married a girl from Camrose and they have two boys, Garry in college in Edmonton and Bryan in high school.

I have returned to Camrose where I have many friends. My home is now in Stoney Creek Lodge.

GEORGE DAWSON, SR.

by Gladys (Dawson) Rubenok

Two of Silver Lane's earliest settlers were Mr. George Dawson and Mr. Dan West, brothers-in-law, who had always stayed together. They came to Hardisty in 1909 and homesteaded. George Dawson had S.W. 24-44-9-W4th and Dan West had N.W. 24-44-9-W4th.

At that time there were no other settlers in that part of the district. Farther north lived the Tomlinson family, the Smith family and Mr. Foreman. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Quittenton, and Mrs. Porter and son Cam came in 1910.

After filing on their homestead George and Dan returned to Washington and waited until a new son, Kenneth Dawson, was old enough to travel. When the baby was six weeks old, the families started out for their new home with all their belongings.

Upon arrival at Calgary they stayed a week in order to purchase a team of horses and a wagon which they shared. They also bought cook stoves, beds, plows and other farming equipment. Their purchases were shipped to Hardisty by boxcar where they had to wait for several days for the boxcar to arrive.

When they started out for their homestead, ten miles north, there was no room for the family to ride so the children and two women walked. They had been warned of the terrible cold winters so upon arrival began building log houses. The children thought it was great fun living in tents before the houses were built. The houses were completed by August.

While the cabins were being built, the men noticed a black cloud in the east. They decided it was nothing so carried on working. The cloud grew larger and they decided to see where the fire was. As I was always with my father, I went along. We walked approximately a mile and a half to get to a high hill. I will never forget the shock to see the fire coming up the other side of the hill! Needless to say we turned and ran back. The fire had to go around a lake to get to our houses. This gave us time to carry our belongings down by the lake as the women were afraid of losing all their possessions. The sky grew dark and the smoke was so thick it was difficult to see. By fighting the fire, the men managed to keep it out of the

bluff of trees beside the homes.

Mr. West, who was away at the time, saw the smoke and rushed home. He arrived in time to cut a corner from his tent and save it. He also managed to keep the fire away from his partly built house.

The land was changed in a few hours. What had been beautiful countryside was now black and twisted. The smell was terrible! We later learned the fire had come from across the river and had jumped it in three places.

We lived in the log house for one or two winters. However, it was terribly cold so my father decided to build a sod house. It was very warm but also very dirty. There were good and bad times in the sod house. My oldest sister was married there, my father passed away and the funeral was held there. My youngest brother George, was born in the sod house.

With the coming of the Bronsons there were enough school age children to start a school.



Mary and Bob Dempsey, Maureen and Ronald.

ROBERT (BOB) DEMPSEY FAMILY

I was born on July 4th, 1905 in a farmhouse in Roscrea County Tiff, Ireland, to a family of five boys and five girls. I went to school at Aghancon and took high school at Roscrea. Our farm was a mile and a half from Jim Jackson's family farm.

In 1925 Jim Jackson and I sailed from Belfast on board the C.P.R. ship Minnedosa for Canada. It took six days to reach Saint John. We travelled by train to Loughheed where we were met by John Armitage - proprietor of the hotel. The next morning we travelled by sleigh driven by George Jackson and Bert Armitage to the William Armitage place at Sedgewick.

For three summers I worked for Bill Armitage on farms at Sedgewick, Kinsella, Irma and Alliance. in the fall of 1927 Jack Milligan and I went to a lumber camp at Buck Lake where we drove teams all winter hauling water and lumber. In the Spring we headed for Jasper where we helped build the lodges and chalets and worked on the golf courses. I went out to Kindersley, Saskatchewan, for harvest, then to Bashaw, but went back to Jasper until the snow came when I went to a lumber camp at MacKay.

I bought S.E. 13-45-9-W4th from Bruce Henderson, but rented it to M.D. Askin for three years. In 1931-32 I



Bob Dempsey, Bert Armitage and Jim Jackson.

rented my land to Jim Jackson and lived with him a short time while I broke horses and cut brush.

For a few years I rambled around the country working at Jasper, Kamloops, Cache Creek, Hells Gate and Lytton, B.C. as well as spending some time on the telegraph line in northern Saskatchewan. In 1930 I visited Ireland for a wet winter, returning in March, 1931.

I decided to settle down to farming so bached for four years while I acquired homestead land previously owned by Mr. Reed Sr., the quarter homesteaded by Carl Ahlf, S.E. 14-45-9-W4th, previously owned by Purvis, as well as the west half 12-45-9-W4th and some school land on the river for grazing.



Ronnie Dempsey

In 1937 I married Mary Kibble who had come from Leicestershire, England. We have two children, Maureen and Ronnie. Maureen married Keith Currie and has five children. Ronnie married Aletha Thurston and they have three children.

Times began to improve and then the second World War began. I bought a section of land with a good house east of Irma, and we still make our home there.

Mary and I belong to several community efforts and

Lodges. We've made a number of trips to Ireland as well as receiving visits from relatives from Ireland. We enjoyed showing them around Alberta. I plan to go to my homeland to celebrate my eightieth birthday, if all goes well. The trip now takes just over seven hours.

Over the past years I've had quite a few stays in hospital so now rent all my land as I'm not allowed to work. I still drive my truck to Irma for coffee and to visit my Irish friends, Jim Jackson in Irma, George Jackson at Sedgewick and lots of Armitages. My chores now consist of looking after six cats.

In the fifty-nine years I've been in Alberta I've seen big changes. There is no small farming now. I won't see as many more changes, I hope.



Ron and Aletha Dempsey's children: Lisa, Byron and Shane.

RON AND ALETHA DEMPSEY

Ron was born January 18, 1945 to Robert and Mary Dempsey. He completed his education in Irma and then moved to Edmonton where he worked until 1970. He then moved back to Irma and started the business of Ron's Painting.

Aletha was born April 7, 1951 to Ted and Molly Thurston. She completed her grade twelve at Irma School and then completed three years of university in Edmonton. Aletha then worked in Edmonton until 1974.

In June 1974 Ron and Aletha were united in marriage. They have four children - Shane, Lisa, Byron and Ryan.

In June 1978, Ron and Aletha bought the lumberyard and operate it now as Irma Lumber and Building Supplies.

Ron has been active in community affairs having been the president of the Irma Agricultural Society, a member of the Masonic lodge, and is presently serving as president of the Irma Chamber of Commerce and also as a town counsellor, being the mayor at this time.

Ron and Aletha continue in different service clubs as their children become involved in various activities.

HARVEY AND ANTONIA DENISON

by Emmet Denison

Harvey Denison and his wife Antonia (Annie) came to the Batt school district north of Jarrow in the year 1905 and settled where Alf Oracheski lives today. They had



Earl Denison (Second World War veteran) and Ezra Denison, Harvey Denison (standing), (seated) Pearl, Annie, Lydia and Carl Denison.

three children at that time, Ezra, Lydia and Pearl. Carl was born later about 1914. They first came to Camrose from Collville, Washington, U.S.A.

Harvey and his brother-in-law Harry Richmond, who had a homestead farther north, left the women and children in Camrose and proceeded to the homesteads and did some breaking. In the Spring of the next year they moved by wagon to the Batt district. They had three horses on the wagon and a cow tied behind. It took six days, as the cow was not too swift. Their last night out they camped at Lake Thomas. While there Percy Jones of Irma, called on them, he was working for a cattle outfit. He told me this himself in 1947.

Harvey said upon arriving they had to watch their horses very closely, as there were three wild horses in the vicinity, and they kept trying to steal them. That problem eventually got solved. The Indians captured one, Ollie Hollar caught one and the other one got shot by a homesteader. The little pinto stallion that Hollars caught was last seen working out of the livery barn at Minburn.

The Batt school was built in 1908 and the Denison children all started to school at the one time.

Harvey Denison's father Scott, had a homestead near Kinsella. He hauled oats into Viking and loaded them on a boxcar before there were any elevators.

Ezra Denison married Muriel Ambler in 1924 and they had three children born in Alberta, Emmet, Margaret and Gerald, Barbara was born later. They moved to Ontario in 1936.

Lydia married Art Friedland from Vermilion. They moved to Ontario, and Pearl Denison married Ivan Archibald, and they lived in the Ross school district. Carl Denison moved with his mother to Ontario in 1936 where he married and raised a family. Lydia is the only survivor of the original family and she lives in Toronto.

Harvey Denison purchased a steam engine and threshing machine and did the threshing over a large area. In the winter they used to pull the thresher with four oxen, as the old steamer had trouble drawing itself through the snow.

Annie Denison was known for the cream cans of coffee

she used to make for the dances at the Batt school.

My dad Ezra, said that at one time he was the oldest young lad in the district and he was often elected to ride to Irma for a doctor, often at night. He said he always kept a saddle horse in the barn at night. The district was made up of young couples, and babies were being born quite regularly. He said they usually showed their appreciation by buying him a white shirt. He said at one time he could have had a shirt sale.

Emmot Denison lives near Portland, Ontario today and calls his farm "D7 Farms". Ken Ambler's son Harvey, farms about seven miles from Denisons. They still drive horses in the sugar bush at maple syrup time.



Annie Denison, Lydia Denison, Harvey Denison, Pearl Denison, Ezra Denison taken about 1912.

CHARLES DETRO FAMILY

Charles DeTro was born in Edmonton and when a small boy came to live in the Irma district around 1920. His mother married Bert Clelland, a farmer in the Education Point area. He had two sisters - Maxine Larson (DeTro) and Audrey Camire (Clelland).

Mr. DeTro taught school in the Minburn area, also at Aplomb School south of Lavoy for a few years. He then came back to teach in Irma in the fall of 1941. He married Evelyn Elford in April of 1942, just prior to joining the Air Force that same year. Upon discharge he went to the University of Alberta, then returned to teaching in Ribstone, Leduc, and then became the principal at Salisbury Composite High School near Sherwood Park. He passed away March 17, 1969 before the opening of the new Salisbury High School which he had worked so hard in helping to design and equip. In appreciation of what he did for the students, the Students' Union commissioned an artist to paint a picture of him which was hung in the entrance of the new school.

Charles was active in the coaching end of many school teams. He coached softball, baseball, hockey, and both boys' and girls' basketball. He formed student clubs at some of the schools and enjoyed working with young people. Charles and Evelyn have three sons - Carman, Trevor and Dallas. Evelyn lives in Edmonton as do

Carman and his wife Sandra, and Dallas and wife Minerva and their daughter Morgan. Trevor and wife Linda live in Calgary.

THE DOOTSON FAMILY

by Adelaide Dootson

William Dootson was born in Leigh, Lancashire, England. As a small child the family immigrated to Yorkshire where their father worked as a coal miner.

When Bill left school he also worked in a mine.

In 1929, owing to working conditions and seeing placards "Come to Canada, the land of Golden opportunity", and after a six week course to teach them something of farming, he came to Irma, Alberta.

His sister, Mrs. Harry Carter, already living in the Alma Mater district, sponsored him.

He worked for a few farmers. He got a job with Andrew Smart, where Bob Dempsey now lives. Andrew passed away from a diabetic coma in May, 1933. Bill got another man to help and stayed on till Mrs. Smart Sr. had her sale in October.

In July, 1933, Bill married Adelaide Elliott at the Anglican Church in Wainwright. Not too many hired men had cars, so Bill borrowed Mrs. Smart's car. Roadworkers, seeing him all dressed up, threatened to stop him on the return trip. (Farmers worked off a portion of taxes by doing so many days' roadwork then.) Result, we went another road back to Mother's for supper, no big fancy reception. Most couldn't afford such. Extras were Mrs. Smart, Harry and Frank Carter. Bill also became Great Uncle that day when Johnny Breckenridge arrived. Back to work on Monday.

In the spring we rented Mr. George B. Fischer Sr.'s farm; close enough I could still help mother with jobs. We farmed there a year, had share crop and milked cows.

Next move was west to the McMillan quarter. After one and one half years, we got a chance of heavier land so moved to the Sid Miles homestead in the Sunny Brae district. With little Irene, it was quite usual to run around looking for her as often she'd be on her way up to Grandma's. When we moved south no more running away, the neighbors were too far away. In spring of 1937 Harold joined the family.

Much work had to be done on the farm then as the former renters had not kept up fences. No cross fences on the place, so a good deal of walking for work horses and cows was done.

After a few years we bought a John Deere tractor on steel wheels. Each year a little improvement; Bill purchased a Ford Coupe car one fall. It sat idle all winter, the roads weren't very good then, but by spring we could drive the car to town.

We thought we'd accomplished something when Bill purchased a pump engine from Percy Jones, no more hand pumping for our stock as well as Glovers.

Youngsters had plenty of space to play and they all learned to do chores as they were able.

The threshing was still being done and several farmers helped one another. Sometimes Bill helped at the Sanders farm, for various jobs.

When it came to cutting wood several would get



Bill, Adelaide and Irene.

together and help. Before they had the big portable saw, folks used to use the "Buck saw". If you had a cold house or didn't have coal it meant lots of cutting. First cut the trees in the bush, haul them in and when weather was right, saw up for the woodpile. Another laborious job was cleaning or fanning the seed grain for planting time.

When Irene started school it meant walking almost two miles to Sunny Brae. Christmas 1945 was the last Christmas concert at Sunny Brae. Children were catching the bus at the highway and went to town school after that.

A seismograph crew came through our road in February, 1946. After that the road was built up and it wasn't long 'til the school bus came right to the gate. How good that was, no more worry of students being cold getting to the bus.

When we started farming in 1934, cream was 9 cents per pound butterfat, eggs became so low we cooked them in a variety of ways; they were fed in milk to calves and cooked up for the chickens.

Mother had given me two two-year-old heifers due to calve and some hens. Livestock was a must in those days.

One always had pedlars coming, so the first subscription of the Western Producer was paid for with old hens. We were on the McMillan place then. Horse hair was always in demand by pedlars also. It was plentiful as many folk were still using work horses for farm work.

With all the farm work it was family co-operation that enabled us to make a go of it.

In those days there was more visiting among neighbors. It wasn't a case of just visiting. When people came it was taken for granted they would be staying for a meal.

Thinking back to the "Dirty Thirties" or "Ten Lost Years" as one writer called it, we were too busy to think about it. If anything, it taught you to be self-reliant but also neighborly. Always there was plenty of home produced food.

Christmas holidays were always a highlight when we'd bundle up in the sleigh and go to Kennedy's or Barton's. With straw in the sleigh box and warmed rocks at foot, people didn't mind the cold. Some had graduated to

HAROLD DOOTSON



Bill and Adelaide Dootson's 40th Anniversary - July, 1973. Standing: Norma (Lakusta), Roger, Irene (Crabb), Mary (Newton), Joyce (Stafford), Harold, Mother and Dad seated.

covered cutters with heaters in them.

We didn't have a 'phone until February, 1940. Party lines had more subscribers than now and if there was a fire, Central (operator in town) or someone would ring five long rings.

Over a period of twenty years our family was complete. Irene, (Mrs. Frank Crabb) at Irma; Harold teaching for several years in Ponoka; Mary (Mrs. John Newton) at Irma; Joyce, (Mrs. Ken Teeter) at Wainwright; Norma (Mrs. Dave Lakusta) at Spruce Grove; Roger in construction in Edmonton.

The years have made many changes, rural power lines etc., though we didn't get them. In winter 1965-66 we sold the farm. In spring of 1966 we had an auction sale. A month later we moved to town. While in here Bill took over the mail route owing to Herbie Larson's illness and passing.

We enjoyed several more years together, Norma finishing Grade 12 and Roger finishing school here, the blessing of nineteen grandchildren, all of whom are close enough to know well. Bill passed away July 28, 1978. Adelaide lives in Irma. Up to Feb. 29 I have 7 great-grandchildren. Son-in-law Ken Teeter passed away May 4, 1984.



Cooling off on a hot summer day. Irene and Harold Dootson.

Harold Dootson the first son of Bill and Adelaide Dootson was born in 1937. After spending a happy childhood on the farm and working for a year for Frank Crabb he left Irma and worked at a variety of jobs such as rough-necking on oil rigs and working in a gold-mine in the N.W.T. At twenty-one Harold attended the U. of A. and received a B.A., specializing in drama. After graduating he went to Toronto where he worked by day in an insurance company and, later, the tax department of the city of Toronto while pursuing singing with a folk-group at nights. During this time he wrote a number of songs several of which were recorded by other groups. Needless to say they never reached the hit charts. After the advent of the Beatles and the eclipse of folk music, Harold studied education at the Ontario College of Education and taught for two years at Richview Collegiate. In the meantime Harold married a Saskatoon girl Barbara Derkson and had a little boy, Kevin James.

Moving to Bashaw in 1966, Harold taught there for two years before moving to Ponoka where he has taught English and Drama for the past sixteen years. While in Bashaw Harold and Barb had another son Dylan who is now sixteen and growing. Kevin who is nearly twenty-two has finished his third year at the U. of A.

Harold is still interested in music and plays at school and community functions. He has also started a post-graduate diploma program in English at the U. of A. Barb who has a background in advertising is executive assistant at the main furniture store in Ponoka. Harold is most appreciative of the warm and loving parents and brothers and sisters who have always been so close in this day of the disintegrating family unit.

ROGER DOOTSON FAMILY

Roger Dootson was born November 24, 1953 at the Wainwright Hospital, the youngest of the W. Dootson family. As was customary on the farm he had pets and learned to do various chores. Like other children he liked to have a ride on the tractor and accompany his dad in the old truck. While he was quite young he could drive the old half ton around the farm. It was a big deal to clean out the corral when you could back in with the truck. He commenced school at five years, a long bus ride at that time.

In May of 1966 his parents, Norma and he moved into Irma. The old dog, Buddy was able to come which pleased Roger greatly. He completed his grade twelve in Irma. On weekends or after school he could find farm work to do. Times before school there would be a call from a counsellor to go out and clean out debris the beaver had piled in a culvert on the road north of Ted Hill's.

In the fall of 1970 he commenced working with his brother-in-law Dave Lakusta in the city for Carlson Construction. In December 1973 he married Joan Merriam of Telfordville, in the Telfordville United Church. Joan had had her education in Thorsby and Edmonton. Sometime later Roger made the decision to

study carpentry at N.A.I.T. In due time he received his journeyman certificate. He worked on numerous projects in the city. Later on he took employment with Rick Forrest Construction. Roger and Joan have two children Tyler and Ceilidh. Tyler is involved in hockey. Roger coached for a few years and Roger and Joan have been involved in curling and enjoy skiing. They bought a house in Millwoods and have enjoyed the area except for March 1979 when a gas line erupted and many had to be evacuated for several hours. The children are close to a good school now and no more bussing as when Tyler started school at Bonnie Doon. The two latest projects Roger has been on as superintendent were the new Devon Hospital and for the last year at the Smoky Lake Hospital. Joan has been employed in Sherwood Park for the past few years. They are a busy family.

THE DUBASZ FAMILY

by Les Dubasz

John Dubasz was born during 1901 in Hungary. About ten years later he immigrated with his parents, one older brother and three sisters to Toledo, Ohio. There he attended school for two years, and attained the level of grade six. He left school to earn good money in a glass factory, and help out his parents financially. However his father and youngest sister both died and at this point his mother decided to return to Hungary with the family, just before World War I broke out. The oldest brother Mike, and sister Rose, decided to stay in Toledo, and they lived there for the rest of their lives, neither one raising any children.

Back in Hungary John married our mother Annie Yuhasz, and before I was born in 1927, he immigrated to Canada since the U.S.A. was closed to many immigrants, and mother and I were to follow a couple of years later, after father got a job and had money to send for us. Father got a job in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and we joined him there in 1929. We lived there about a year and Jack was born there in 1930. Shortly thereafter, we moved by train to the area north of Irma. There Father got work as a farm labourer with Joe Saville, and they allowed Mother, Jack and myself to live in their house, where she did some housework for the new bride Mrs. Saville, who was expecting their first child, the present Josephine Holt. After about a year or less, father moved us all to his first rented farm in the area north of Irma. One of our close neighbors was the Prosser family, and their teenaged daughter used to babysit me and take me for one-horse buggy rides. It was at this farm where Bill was born, January 16, 1933. These were the depression years, when both jobs and money were scarce.

Soon thereafter we moved to another rented farm nearby, which had a larger two story house on it. Unfortunately, the following spring, whilst a strong chinook wind was blowing, and Mother was baking bread in a hot wood stove, the creosote in the chimney caught fire, and burned the house to the ground. We lost all our furniture, clothing, photos etc. from the old country. From there we moved to another nearby rented farm, with a small farmhouse, of only two bedrooms and a combined kitchen living room. Our nearest neighbours were the



John and Anne Dubasz with children Illes, Jack, Bill and Irene in 1935, two and one-half miles north of Irma on N 1/2-9-46-9-W4.

McCreadys, an elderly, couple who were very friendly, and often gave us kids cookies and treats. This was about the fall of 1933, and I was six years old, so I had to start school. I had a difficult time in school, since I spoke very little English. I either walked to school or was picked up by a two-horse buggy, driven by older Meyer boys, and their twin sisters. I think before I finished grade one, we moved once again, this time closer to Irma, where two and one half miles north of Irma we rented the Preacher Innis's half section of farmland. The farmhouse was a small two bedroom building with a combined kitchen and living room. By the way, the reason for moving so suddenly from the previous two bedroom house was that it also caught fire from a hot stove and creosote chimney fire, and burned to the ground, burning what few possessions we had there.

We had better luck at the Innis farm, and lived there for several years. Irene, Shirley and Mike, were all born there. Father farmed there on a half crop basis, during the depression and dry, dirty thirties. Money was very scarce, and there were long days of hard work. When we moved there, I started grade one again at the age of seven years at Ross school, five miles away. I rode alone to school the first two years, bare back on a horse. Then for a year Jack rode with me. Then Bill started and later Irene. We drove a one-horse buggy in summer, and a one-horse closed in sleigh caboose in winter. Along the way we often picked up John, Meighen and Avilvia Archibald. In later years we picked up Josephine Saville and her two younger brothers, as they were living with the Grandparents John and Mrs. Archibald. We lived out the depression years prior to World War Two on the rented Innis farm. Our father worked the land with horse drawn plow, discs, harrows, seeder, binder, wagon, sleigh, etc. The road to Irma was not snow plowed in winter so we and the other farm families travelled to the village in horse drawn vehicles. In those days we always raised some pigs and some cattle, and many times as a

teenager I had to shovel about half a load of oats or barley into a horse-drawn wagon, drive it to Irma, in winter or summer, then shovel the load into a grain chopper, to grind it up for our pigs, chickens, cattle etc. We had no electricity in the little farmhouse, and used kerosene lamps and wood cooking stove and there was no running water in the house. The house was poorly insulated with a small dirt root cellar where potatoes and vegetables were kept from our garden. One of my endless chores was hauling wood and water into the house. Needless to say bathing was rare, probably once every week or two. Mother washed the clothes by hand on a scrub board, and hand scrubbed the worn linoleum covered floor. We cut all our poplar fuel wood with an axe during the winter, and I would help on weekends. Then in the spring we hauled it to the farmyard with a team of horses and sleigh, and a neighbour would come



Shirley and Mike Dubasz at Irma in 1959.

over with a gas engine operated circular saw, so that three or four men could saw up the whole pile. I also helped with this job when I was about thirteen years old. In the summer on the weekends and during school holidays I helped out with all the farm work, including driving two to four horse teams pulling discs, harrows etc. Another endless job was picking stones off the cultivated fields, during any spare time, eventually brother Jack and even Bill helped out. Harvesting the grain in the fall was a huge job. First it had to be cut with a four horse drawn binder. We had an old Massey-Harris binder, that was always breaking down, and we spent about half the time repairing it. After father cut the grain during the day, I would spend all evening till nine or ten helping him stook the sheaves. When I reached fourteen or fifteen years of age I did all the stooking by myself, and started to miss a month of school every fall in September, to help out with the harvesting. After the grain was cut and stooked, father and I would work on the neighboring threshing

crew, driving two racks with two teams of horses, to help thresh the neighbor's grain, and then our own. Each year it seemed that after harvest was in, and half of the grain went to the landlord, and prices for grain were usually poor, that we barely had enough to cover expenses. We usually had to buy food and farm necessities on credit, and pay off most with the fall harvest of wheat, which was skimpy due to the dry summers in those years. Then in winter we generated a little extra cash by selling young hogs, some calves, and even selling dairy cream. When I was about fifteen or sixteen years old, father would leave us for the winter, and travel by train to the forest lumber camps west of Edmonton, to labour for good wages, and to help carry us all through another tough year. We all had lots of plain but nourishing food to eat on the farm, which kept us reasonably healthy, but we caught all the ailments going around like measles, chicken pox, mumps, flu's and colds and coughs, but we never went to a doctor, since there was none in Irma. Instead we went to our friendly druggist, and got the necessary medicines and ointments. We had good warm clothes, as each fall after harvest, our parents got out the Eatons and Simpson's catalogues and ordered our winter's supply of new clothing. Most of the other farm families in the area lived much the same as we did, so we were all reasonably satisfied with our lot, but always wanted to make more money to cut down on the labour. I believe we definitely lived under pioneer conditions in those days, similar to the farm pioneers in the U.S.A. about two hundred years ago. Nevertheless I found it a satisfying way of life, and enjoyed living close to the land and nature and raising the various farm animals. As I recall I never suffered from any deep depression whilst on the farm, as I was too busy all the time working or just taking part in the simple recreation of those days, such as shooting and hunting on the farm, visiting other farm kids, attending the many family dances, picnics etc. at the school or in Irma, horseback riding, picking saskatoon berries in summer; school skating parties in winter; and the studies, games and sports in school were fun, as everyone participated.

After a few years on the Innis farm, Dad purchased our first old model A Ford sedan, color black, with a canvas roof. It had to be hand cranked to start, and would kick fiercely, if the spark was not retarded enough. This made it possible for our family to attend the odd Friday night movie in Irma, mostly in summer, and to go to Irma most Saturday nights to shop and visit with the other farm families, have ice cream and pop in the Chinese restaurant, and of course play pool with the other boys and men. Later I would attend the many dances in Irma, and the surrounding district.

Around 1941 or 42, Dad purchased his half section of land, which was the Peterson farm, and later became part of Dubasz Ranching Ltd. The first year or so we farmed it with horse drawn machinery, and purchased a new, wide, large bladed tiller, which was drawn by eight horses. It was one big job to feed, harness and unharness, and hitch up all those horses, then to keep all the fences mended to keep the horses and cattle in the pasture. We soon rented a third quarter of land from Old Jim Kennedy, then a fourth quarter from Nelwin Peterson, etc. We purchased our first old used steel-wheeled and lugged

gasoline tractor. It used up half the gas just to move itself along, but it did replace the horses on the heavy machinery.

John and Anne raised six children. Illes (Les) attended school at Ross and Irma Rural High, later the U. of A. Teachers' College. After training for two months he joined Hudson's Bay Company in Northern Canada for two years and then joined the R.C.M.P., where he served for over twenty years. Illes is now retired and lives in Fredericton New Brunswick. Illes has a boy and girl.

John (Jack) attended Ross school, Irma Rural High and Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1956 where he took two courses in one. In 1957 Jack attended the University of Alberta where he received his B.Sc. in Agriculture. In 1960 he attended the University of Western Ontario, M.B.A. His present occupation is entrepreneur, and he lives in Edmonton. Jack never married.

William (Bill) attended school at Ross, Irma Rural High and the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1956. Bill farmed for a number of years in the Ross district before leaving to do construction work. At present he makes his home in Irma. Bill is unmarried.

Irene Anne was born August 4, 1930 at Irma and received her education at Ross, Irma and the University of Alberta where she received her Bachelor of Education in 1959. Irene taught school for twelve years and is presently living in Lethbridge, Alberta. Irene has one daughter.

Shirley Theresa was born February 14, 1940 at Irma where she received her education at Ross and Irma High. In 1959 she moved to Calgary where she worked as a hairdresser, waitress and secretary. Shirley makes her home in Calgary. Shirley has a daughter.

Michael Robert was born at Irma and attended Ross School and Irma High School. In 1967 he moved to Edmonton where he still resides. Mike is employed as a truck driver. Mike has four children.

John farmed for years north of Irma where they raised their family. He passed away (cancer) in the Wainwright Hospital in 1964 and is buried in the Irma Cemetery. Anne passed away in Calgary in 1966 and is buried in Saint Mary's Cemetery in Calgary.

JOSEPH AND WILMA DUMONT

by Wilma Dumont

My maiden name was Wilma McDonald. My parents were James and Edna McDonald and I have a sister, Mildred.

I married Joseph Dumont who was employed for many years as a superintendent of Tahsis Company Ltd., a sawmill operation here in B.C. He has only recently retired.

I, too, am now retired but I was employed as a legal secretary.

We raised four children, all of whom are married. Our oldest, Raymond, is an electronics engineer presently in Oregon. Our daughter, Lucienne, is a flight attendant with Air Canada, and her husband is a social worker in Vancouver rehabilitation hospital. Rita is our third child. Her husband is a manager of an industrial supply firm.



Wilma and Joseph Dumont.

Gloria, our youngest, is a computer programmer; her husband manages two firms, one is a wood manufacturing firm and the other is engraving.

We have a total of five grandchildren, four girls and a boy.

For a hobby, we travel extensively. We have seen practically all of Canada, U.S., and Europe. This summer we hope to visit Bombay and Singapore.



Dumont family - Lucienne, Rita, Gloria, and Raymond.

THE BILL DUNBAR FAMILY

William Dunbar was born in Nairnshire, Scotland in 1922. He came to Canada in 1925 with his parents, John and Margaret Dunbar. He attended school at Alma Mater and joined the air force (1942-45) becoming an airframe mechanic.

He married Julia Orom from Bashaw, Alberta in 1944.

They bought Aubrey Fischer's homestead (NW 12-46-9-W4) in 1945 and began dairy farming, later running a hog operation. In 1971 a fire destroyed the hog barn and about 570 hogs. In 1973 the dairy barn and contents burnt. The barns were rebuilt.

All of their children were born at Wainwright. The oldest son, Wallace was born in 1945. He is very musical and played the accordion at many local functions. He married Judy Shaw, R.N. Their two daughters are Diana (1965) and Cindy (1970). He later married Mary Con-



Margaret, Lyndon, Joyce, Wallace, Julia, Bill, and Meg Dunbar.

nick, R.N. Their children are Monica (1976) and Julia (1978). Wallace and family live at Grimshaw, Alberta. He has been a salesman for many years and recently won an award for being the top salesman in North America for Kubota Tractor.

Joyce Dunbar was born in 1948. She completed a secretarial course at Vermilion Agricultural College before marrying Jim Dalueg. Their children are Wanda (1968), Stacey (1970), and Jody (1972). They live near Forestburg.

Margaret Dunbar was born in 1952. After leaving Irma she took courses in Edmonton and Camrose. She married David Pearson from Donalda. Their two sons are Ryan (1976) and James (1979). They live near Stettler, Alberta.

Lyndon Dunbar was born in 1964. He attended Irma School and Lakeland College, Wainwright before working on a seismic crew in Alberta and Saskatchewan.



James David served in Army and later worked for Bill Dunbar.

Bill Dunbar was the first A.I. technician in the Irma area and is a member of the Irma Canadian Legion. Julia enjoys the quilting bee which gathers at the Irma United Church.

THE BILL DUNBAR FAMILY

William Robert Dunbar was born at Athabasca, Alberta in 1954 to John and Ann Dunbar. His first years were spent in Alberta, B.C. and the Maritimes where his father's job took the family. In 1963 he moved to Irma when his parents took over John Dunbar, Sr.'s farm.

After attending Irma School he worked on drilling rigs, becoming a driller for Precision Drilling Ltd. at the age of eighteen. After six years with this company he worked as a drilling consultant and then became a co-owner of Saturn Drilling Inc., Edmonton, which was formed in 1982.

He married Charlene Manion from Youngstown, Alberta, a chemical technologist. Their two children are Crystal May (1978) and Stephanie Anne (1982). They reside in Irma. Bill enjoys golfing in his spare time.



Bill and Charlene.



Crystal Dunbar



Stephanie Dunbar

THE BOB DUNBAR FAMILY

Robert Woodruff Dunbar was born at Irma to John and Margaret Dunbar in 1935. He attended Alma Mater and Irma Schools.

He was employed by Alberta Department of Highways as a clerk. In 1962 he married Bonnie McCole from Amisk. They moved to Viking where Bob was a clerk with Northwest Utilities and Bonnie taught at the Viking School. Bob was on the *Viking Shamrocks* senior baseball team that won the provincial championship in 1962.

Their two children, Robbie (1967) and JoAnn Lee (1970) were born at Viking.

In 1977 they bought the "Juniper Lodge" at Lacombe, Alberta and relocated to Lacombe where they still reside. After this was sold, Bob remained in the hotel business.

The family enjoys curling, golf, and volleyball. Many will remember hearing Bob play the bagpipes at "Robbie Burns Night" at Albert Hall and other gatherings. Bob is a member of the Gratton View Masonic Lodge, Irma, A.F.A.M., as was his father, John Dunbar, Sr.

THE HAMISH DUNBAR FAMILY

Hamish Dunbar was born at Irma in 1929 to John and Margaret Dunbar. He attended Alma Mater School. For several years he worked with his father, farming, after Dave Paul's heart attack in the mid 1950's.

He married Kay Stefaniszyn of Wainwright. Hamish was employed as a farmhand, grain buyer, oilrig driller and insulator, residing in the Irma and Viking areas. He was a trucker in Viking and Kay worked at the Viking Hospital. She was an immaculate housekeeper.

These are their children: Jim (1961), David (1962), Kenny (1964), Albert (1965), and Tracy (1970).

In his younger years Hamish entered chuckwagon races. One of his favorite events was the Bruce Stampede.

Hamish died in a tragic car accident in July 1983. He is interred in the Irma Cemetery.



Hamish Dunbar Children: Kenny, Jim, Albert, David. Inset - Tracy.

THE JOHN DUNBAR SR. FAMILY

John Dunbar and Margaret Paul were born in Scotland in 1900 and married at Auldearn in 1921. They emigrated from Scotland under a British Empire settlement plan. Sailing from Glasgow, the young couple and infant son, Bill, who was born in 1922, arrived in Halifax in June 1925 on the "Athenea".

They travelled to Hardisty, Alberta where John was employed by a farmer, George Thacker, for a year as a hired hand. In April 1926 they moved to Irma (NE 18-46-8-W4). The house, well, and barn were there, built by a previous settler. Three sons were born here: John in 1927, Hamish in 1929 and Robert in 1935.

All of the children attended Alma Mater School which sat on the southwest quarter of 18-46-8-W4, a walk of about one mile. The students had one year terms to clean blackboards, floors, carry drinking water and tend the coal and wood-burning furnace. Pay was \$5.00 a month.

In the 1930's entertainment often consisted of listening to radio shows. Monday night brought "Lux Radio Theatre", Wednesday night was "Gangbusters" and Saturday was "Hockey Night in Canada". Additionally, there were ball games with Alma Mater School versus Education Point and Roseberry Schools. Ambler's Stampede was held on Buckskin Flats, near Education Point School, providing some excitement. John (Sr.) played the bagpipes. When he played, while walking up and down the road, Woody Clark's horses in the pasture across the road would follow him along the fenceline.

The primary means of transportation was by horse. A trip to town with a horse and loaded wagon took about an hour and a half on the trail which wound around sloughs and brush. A "Democrat" was used for carrying



Dunbar family, 1948. Standing Back: John, Jr. Middle Row, Left to Right: Bill, Margaret (mother), John (father), Hamish. Bob in front.

light loads or for visiting. It had four large wooden wheels with wooden spokes. In later years a "Bennett Buggy", a Model-T Ford stripped of motor, etc. was hooked on behind horses.

During threshing Margaret sometimes cooked for two threshing crews at the same time, as well as milking cows and raising chickens. Neighbors knew they could always expect a hot cup of tea and good baking at Meg's.

Bill Dunbar served in the air force from 1942 to 1945

and became an airframe mechanic. He returned to Irma to farm and his home quarter is NW 12-46-9W4. He married Julia Orom. Their children are Wallace, Joyce, Margaret, and Lyndon.

John (Sr.) and Margaret retired and moved into Irma in 1965. John passed away in 1978. Their son John now farms the homeplace.



Bill, Ann, John, Bonnie, Dean, Margaret, John, and Ian.

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT YOU

Wouldn't this old world be better
 If the folks we meet would say,
 I know something good about you
 And then treat us just that way!

Wouldn't it be fine and dandy
 If each handclasp warm and true
 Carried with it this assurance
 I know something good about you!

Wouldn't things here be more pleasant
 If the good that's in us all
 Were the only thing about us
 That folks bothered to recall!

Wouldn't life be lots more happy
 If we'd praise the good we see!
 For there's such a lot of goodness
 In the worst of you and me.

Wouldn't it be nice to practice
 This fine way of thinking too:
 You know something good about me,
 I know something good about you!

IN JULY

by Nancy O. Parke

*I'm thankful for the twilight, for its cools the heat away;
 I'm thankful for the foliage that shades me through the day;
 I'm thankful for the sunset with each glorious, lighted ray;
 I'm thankful for the sunrise every sweet and fresh new morn;
 I'm thankful for the flowers that the woodland aisles adorn;
 I'm thankful for the inner light that holds my faith new born.
 I'm thankful for the loving friends and kindly deeds so fair
 That sweeten all my season whether here or whether there,
 And fill with luminous glow of hope what else was empty air.
 I'm thankful for all blessings; as to sorrows that have crushed
 My stricken heart with agony as on me they have rushed -
 Perhaps enduring them has blessed me, too, for deeper gushed
 My sense of the Eternal - aye, of rich infinitude
 When, rising from my bed of pain, again upright I stood,
 With visions rife of spheres of light above earth's attitude.*

FROM MY COTTAGE ON THE HILL

by Nancy O. Parke

*Daily I watch as cars go by -
 Silver and green and blue;
 Moving swiftly, they come and go
 And are suddenly lost to view.*

*I wonder as they vanish from sight,
 If happy the hearts they hold
 Or if with human despondencies
 They are weary with sorrow untold.*

*They have sunny air and freedom, too,
 In their lovely holidays
 With much of beauty and blessings true,
 To cheer them on their ways.*

*And I often wish while they're spinning by,
 I too, could so smoothly ride,
 Relax and rest, at ease today
 And drop all my worries aside.*

*But then I recall the beauteous days
 When my friends loving and true,
 Brought happiness yielding to naught on earth
 And joy was always new.*

*So today I smother my sometime grief
 By heart-warming memories dear,
 And think of the great embracing love
 That brought me - even here.*



Note-- bobsled way of travel.



Fentons' wood supply for winter.



Traveling in early days (persons unknown).



Ralph King's first combine.



Osbernes' pole and mud building.



Gwinn's coyote catch.



Mr. C. Coffin ready to deliver the mail.



40th anniversary for Mr. and Mrs. Ross Eaton, September 13th, 1953. Front Row: Mr. and Mrs. Ross Eaton, and children. Sharon and Maureen Gunn and Lynn McFarland, Mrs. G. Tripp, Mrs. R. McFarland, Sr., Mrs. Tate, Audrey (Jones) Nissen, Mrs. Stan Brown, Mrs. Watkinson, Mrs. W. Frickelton, Mrs. H. Black, Mrs. Charlotte Larson, Mrs. Taylor (Mrs. Gunn's mother), Mrs. A. Charter, Mrs. R. (Bessie) Larson, Miss Alice Flewelling, Mrs. Percy Jones, Mrs. Ross McFarland, Jr. (Ethel), Mrs. Cliff Jones (Ada), Mrs. Dick Rohrer (Lilla), Mrs. Cormack, Mr. Herb Black, Mrs. D. Gunn, Mrs. C. McLean, P.E. Jones, Ross McFarland, Sr., Ross McFarland, Jr., Mr. R. (Dick) Rohrer, Mr. Stan Brown, Mr. A. Charter, Mr. Walter Frickelton, Mr. Cormack (Kinsella).

MR. AND MRS. ROSS EATON

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Eaton, pioneers of the Irma district, came here in 1912, from near Brockville, Ontario. Ross's brother, Omar Eaton, had come here in 1910, filing on a homestead - N.W. 15-45-9-W4th. His father, Wm. Eaton, had filed on the N.E. 15-45-9-W4th. They encouraged Ross to come west.

About the late 1913's or early 1914's, Ross settled on the N.E. 24-45-9-W4th. This was the original homestead of John W. Campbell (April 1908), after Mr. Campbell had received the Patent in 1911 for this land.

The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, now the C.N.R., ran across this property and had a water tank located in about the centre of this quarter. The buildings were located there because the occupant became the pumpman for the railway. Ross served as pumpman for several years. He served a period as pumpman at Kinsella, Holden and Hawkins. They returned to Irma and lived in Irma until Mrs. Eaton's passing in 1955.

They were kindly neighbors, always willing to lend a helping hand in any way possible. "Aunt Blanche", as she was known to many youngsters in each of the generations, was unfailingly interested and kind. She won the respect of all her acquaintances, and endeared herself to a wide circle of friends.

If it hadn't been for "Aunt Blanche", many children would never have had any music lessons. She certainly was a kind teacher.

In her younger days she was active in several organizations, but her chief interest was always the welfare of the younger members of the community. Even during late years of failing health, she exemplified the qualities of tolerance, friendliness and helpfulness which characterized the pioneer people.

During Ross's almost fifty years residence, most of which was in the Irma district, Ross was known as a man of honor, kindness and generosity, interested always in the welfare of others.

Ross passed away in 1960. They will always be remembered as Uncle Ross and Aunt Blanche.

RUSSELL EDMONDS

by Iva (Edmonds) King

The Russell Edmonds family came to Irma in 1916 and opened a hotel in the vicinity of where Median Automotives is today. Shortly after it opened prohibition came into effect and without a liquor license the hotel did not pay well. For a time it was kept open for room and board. Most of the bankers stayed there along with work crews putting in telephone lines. A painter, Mr. Stott from Edmonton stayed there and Mr. Andy Turnbull who lived east of Irma usually stayed there on weekends.



Delmer Edmonds, Russell Edmonds, Grace Marbry, Ralph Marbry, Irma Edmonds married to Ralph, Lloyd Edmonds, Iva Edmonds, Leslie Moore and wife Mabel (Edmonds), Earl Moore, Grandma Moore, John Moore - baby and Hazel Moore, his sister, Ada Mary Moore, Mrs. Etta Edmonds, Mr. Hawkins - Irma United Church minister standing in front.

My parents were friendly with the Archibalds and Kennedys. My sister, Irma, worked in the drugstore and played basketball for Irma. My brother worked for Mr. Tripp who owned a livery stable and also ran a dray which picked up cargo off the train and delivered it to the stores.

Leslie and Ray Moore came to Irma after World War I and started a Ford garage where the Drop-in Centre is today. That is where my sister Mabel met Leslie Moore. They were married in Irma.

After we left Irma we went to the Batt district to farm. We still kept in touch with Archibalds and Kennedys. At one time Alf Larson, Jimmy Kennedy, Ralph Marbury and I (Iva) played for dances at the various schools. My sister Irma married Ralph Marbury.

Some names of Irma people I remember are Guiltner, Herbert (Verna and Vera), Grace Love, Bob and Frank McGuire, the Hatches (Vera Hatch and I were good friends) and Carl Burr. Mr. Hatch ran a butcher shop, but they didn't stay long in Irma.

I have two brothers and two sisters living. Delmer Edmonds lives in Richmond, B.C. and is enjoying good health at eighty-four years. Burleigh is eighty-six years and lives in Calgary. Irma (eighty-two) and Mabel (seventy-nine) live near San Francisco, California. I, Iva King, live in Richmond, B.C.

THE ELFORDS

Edward (Ed) and Ruby Elford came to Irma from Calgary in September, 1922. Ed took over the garage business from Ray Moore. He had the Ford Agency and also sold other makes of cars if customers wanted them. He also had the town light plant until Calgary Power bought it and installed their own power in the fall of 1928. Mrs. Elford was the first woman driver for miles around.

Ed's brothers, Thornley and Frank, lived with them from 1923 to early 1928. Thornley worked in their garage, did electrical work and played in the Moon-Coulthman orchestra. He married Zora Moon in 1928 and moved to Vancouver. Frank went to school the first years. He married Amelia Hubman, then moved to Edmonton.

The Elford home at the north end of Main Street was built in 1928. Garage business became very bad during depression years so in the early thirties, Ed and Ruby took over the Ed Lechelt General Store in the (then) Bill Masson building. A few years later they moved into the old garage building. They introduced a fresh meat section into the store. Later on they built their own slaughterhouse for cattle and hogs as well as a smokehouse. Their son, Havie, did the butchering for a few years. Christmas was a favorite season in the Elford store. They not only had an extensive toy display but also an electric train complete with mountains and tunnels. Easter would find a window full of baby chicks. During World War Two they had a special project of packing parcels for customers to send to the boys in the armed forces overseas. They carried on in the store until the fall of 1947 when the business was sold to Bob Kirkman and



The Elford family on July 1, 1940: Haviland (Havie), Jean, Ruby, Evelyn, Edward (Ed) and Ted in front.

Colin McLean.

There were four children - Evelyn who married Charles DeTro during World War Two; Haviland who taught school in Irma before moving to Edmonton; Jean who married Clarence Lovig; and Ted who was only eleven years old when the family moved to Edmonton in December, 1947.

During school years some of the family were interested in sports. Evelyn was in basketball. Havie played hockey as well as softball and hard ball. They were also interested in music and had their own orchestra along with a few others - Shirley Thompson, Carl Soneff, Jack Fletcher and Charlie DeTro. They played for many parties and dances all around the district. Evelyn played the piano, Havie and Jean played saxophone.

After moving to Edmonton, Havie married Gladys Whetstone. He studied law, was admitted to the bar, became a Crown Prosecutor in Edmonton, then was appointed a Provincial Judge in Lethbridge for a number of years. He then transferred to Sherwood Park Court. They moved to Vernon, British Columbia in 1984. Jim, Bob and Joan are their three children.

Ted (Edward Jr.) became interested in music after moving to Edmonton. He was a drummer in the Edmonton Schoolboys' Band which for years was a well known and well travelled band. The highlight of his band years was performing at the Grey Cup in 1955 in Vancouver. Ted married Anna Follinglo and they have three children, Steven, Kathy and Janet. Ted teaches at Strathcona Composite High School in Edmonton. Anna also taught school there when they met.

Mosquitoes - two-winged hypodermic needles.



Daisy and Gordon Elliott, Nov. 7, 1942.

GORDON AND DAISY ELLIOTT

Gordon Russel Elliott was born June 11th, 1922 to Jim and Edith Elliott of Irma. He was one of four children. Gordon had his education at Education Point school and lived in the district until he married the former Daisy Lockhart of the Batt district.

Gordon joined the Canadian Army at the age of twenty-one. He was stationed in various training centres until the end of the Second World War in 1945. At that time he held the rank of corporal. He came back to Irma district and they farmed four miles east of Irma.

In 1957 he, his wife and five daughters, moved to Bashaw where they made their home until he passed away on July 5th, 1974.

J.H. ELLIOTT

by Adelaide (Elliott) Dootson

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hobbs Elliott, and sons Will, Jim, and Dick, and daughters Mary and Mabel left their home in Michigan, U.S.A. in 1906, and landed at what was then Strathcona. Their son George and daughter Minnie chose to stay in Michigan. The prospects of a one hundred and sixty acre farm for each man appealed to them. They each filed on a homestead - Grandpa's was the S.E. 36-46-9-W4, Dad's was the S.W. 36-46-9-W4, Uncle Dick's was the N.E. 36-46-9-W4, and Uncle Jim's the N.W. 30-46-9-W4. These homesteads were situated in what became the Education Point School District. At that time they had to haul supplies, lumber, etc. from Hardisty and Mannville, as the Grand Trunk Railway between Irma and Edmonton was not then completed.

I started school in Education Point when I was seven years old. This meant I had one and three-quarter miles to walk. The teacher boarded at Grandma's, although later one boarded at Uncle Jim's and Aunt Edith's. School was uneventful: we realize now teaching wasn't



Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Elliott in the 1930's.

for the timid ones. We realized that when Mrs. Patterson subbed after one young lady couldn't take it. That's when I was changed from left-hand writing to right. We had Mr. Rice, and later Mr. Bill McIntosh. Mr. McIntosh could play the clarinet, so that was our music for our annual Christmas concerts. He didn't believe in pampering us, and if we clustered around the stove (surrounded with galvanized sheeting) out we had to go and play fox and goose, build snow forts, etc. A pail of water was expected to suffice for a day, and there was no loitering when you felt the necessity to run to the (almost) far end of the school grounds to the outhouse.

We were unaware of poor crops; we had plenty to eat and wear, lots of chores from the time we were able, though I always thought, or had a feeling that the boys sneaked off and could have done more.

My Dad passed away in 1926, so no way would Mother hear of me going further than finishing Grade 8. Work inside and out, driving horses. Not much to say of my 'teen years', but Mother and I worked well together.

Farming went on as usual until Mother chose to marry W. McCartney in August 1928. That fall the house was moved with great difficulty one half mile south, the first attempt made with tractors, and finally obtaining a winch from Mr. John Hubman to get it moved a few hundred feet, until firmer soil was reached.

Grandpa was active in community affairs, including the Agricultural Society and the Masonic and Orange Lodges. In the spring of 1929 the partnership ended, having a sale and moving to town, to the house now occupied by Mrs. Audrey Nissen. Grandpa passed away in April 1938, and his wife shortly after, having gone to live with her daughter in Calgary.

I recollect as a child threshing time being exciting. Wheat mainly was stacked, three or four stacks in one place. Either the Coultman steam threshing outfit or Lou Hardy's outfit would pull in and thresh. Later on it was the McLean, Patterson, Elliott threshing outfit that had a certain route of farms to thresh for.

For entertainment I remember the Chatauqua, live entertainment in a huge tent in Irma. The tent was set up on the Fairgrounds. Families drove in with horses and buggies, many twice a day during the few days they were

there. The local Fair also was a way for many mothers to visit friends they didn't see too often.

Much credit is due our parents and grandparents for having the courage to leave all, and come west.



About 1910 at the Elliott homestead: Dick, Mary, Will, J.H. and Mrs. J.H. Elliott, ?, John McNaughton, George and Jim Elliott.

The girls worked in Edmonton for a time - I'm not sure, but probably in winter for a start. The men broke some land at first with a walking plow. Will worked for some time on the construction of the railroad, as did many others. When they came to file on their homesteads, they commented on the lushness of grass for hay and pasture, and on the many sloughs. Grandpa and Dad had Red Polled cattle in partnership. Cattle were shown at fairs, both locally and at a distance. Being dairy cows, there was always a demand for butter in town. For some years, Grandpa made twice weekly trips to town with butter and eggs, until the Burns Creamery was built.

The first house was a two-storey frame house, which is still on the farm, but looks like a haunted house now. The first barn was built of sod, but later on a good hip-roof barn was built.

My grandma passed away in October of 1911, and Aunt Mary carried on the home duties. After proving up the homestead, Uncle Dick went back to Michigan, as farming wasn't for him.

Dad went east to Lancaster, Ontario, and married my mother, Janet McNaughton, February 14, 1912. He had built a small house on Grandpa's land, as his mother thought they should work together. I was born on July 6, 1913. At that time they had Sunday School and Church at Grandpa's. Auntie Mary rather spoiled me some, as one time they said I was standing up in the preacher's chair. It was like home to me, so on Sundays they tell me I liked to share Auntie's good cookies with other children. I must have been venturesome, as one time Grandpa told Mother, "If you don't watch that youngster, she'll be drowned." He'd caught me leaning over a pole fence surrounding a slough.

My brothers, Ed and Les, were born October 1916 and March 1919. What I remember about March 1919 was, there was so much snow piled everywhere. In the spring of 1919 Alma Mater School was opened, and church services were held there instead of at Grandpa's.

In November 1918 "as soon as the 'flu quarantine was

off" Grandpa married Mrs. Martha Linley. Aunt Mary went to the coast to work. In 1921 Uncle Jim married Edith Russell of Regina. To them were born four sons, Gordon, Hugh, Harold and Arthur.

JIM AND EDITH ELLIOTT

Jim Elliott was one of the early settlers of our area and came with his father and two brothers from Michigan to Strathcona in 1906. He filed on a homestead in 1908 on N.W. 30-46-8. He built a house and married Edith Russell in 1921 who had come to visit her sister Mrs. Don Nicholl, a neighbor living on the Johnstone place close by. There were four children born to this marriage, Gordon, Hugh, Harold and Arthur. Jim bought the half section north of his homestead and broke it all out. He farmed this land for a number of years until he passed away. As the boys were too young to farm the land, Edith rented it out. She eventually sold the land and moved to Edmonton where she still resides. She is at present living in the Grandview Extencicare.



Jim Elliott family.



Will and Janet Elliott with their children Edwin, Adelaide and Leslie at G. Arnold farm in 1923.

LESLIE ELLIOTT HISTORY

Leslie Elliott was born on Irma March 2, 1919 - "the spring of much snow". Les was the youngest of Mr. and Mrs. Will Elliott's family. He received his schooling at the Education Point and Alma Mater schools.

After leaving school he continued working on the family farm. In January 1941 he married Margaret Lockhart of the Batt district. Shortly thereafter he joined the R.C.A.F. During the next four and one half years he served in St. Thomas, Ontario, Claresholm, Alberta, Boundary Bay and Abbotsford, B.C. and Smith River, N.W.T. Two daughters, Leona and Carolyn were born while he was in the R.C.A.F. After his discharge he obtained property in the Abbotsford area. Their son Lorne was born in October of 1950.

Les worked in the milk plant at Abbotsford for six years and the Clayburn brick plant for thirty-one years. Before retirement in the spring of 1984 it was at the tile plant that he worked.

During the years the family married - Leona to Fred Maddalzo and Carolyn to Leonce Crepeault of Montreal. Leona has two children. Todd is married and Lisa is working in Montreal. Lorne has two children, Barrie and Kareena.

After selling their property at Abbotsford they are now comfortably settled in Clearbrook. They are enjoying a well earned retirement amidst beautiful surroundings.

NORMAN HUGH ELLIOTT

by Norma Elliott

Norman Hugh Elliott, known as Hugh, second son of Edith and Jim Elliott, was born in Regina July 7th, 1923. He attended school at Education Point north of Irma. With the passing of his father, Hugh and his brothers helped their mother on the farm.

During World War Two Hugh joined the army in January, 1943 and served with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. Included in his active service were England, Italy, France and Holland. He was discharged in 1946 and began farming on a Veterans Land Act farm with his brother Gordon, being S.W. 27-45-8-W4th.

On August 2nd, 1952, Hugh married Norma McCulloch, a teacher at Education Point School. She was raised on a farm east of Didsbury, then attended the University of Alberta. Eight children were born to this union, five girls and three boys.

We experienced good and bad times with the usual hailstorms and crop losses. One year the hail was so severe it "pounded" the garden into the ground and left the appearance of summerfallow. The bark was even stripped from some trees.

We moved to Wainwright when the twins were born, but later purchased the Sanders' farm and farmed there until October, 1967. An anxious experience was the disappearance of Audrey, our two and a half year old daughter, in 1961. I had just come from the hospital with Marlene two days before. Audrey followed Keith to the field to take lunch to Robbie Morse, but turned and crossed the highway and went down Hawkins' Road near



Norma and Hugh Elliott, August, 1952.

the C.N. Railway. Many neighbors and the R.C.M.P. aided in the search. Finally about seven o'clock in the evening George Bacon reported seeing a child near the tracks three miles from home. Fred Clumstad followed George's directions and found her. She was unhurt and still clutching the raw bread dough in her hand said "nice cows won't hurt me". She was referring to Fenton's cows she had passed.

Irwin, the oldest son contracted rheumatic fever and cholera at the age of eight and spent a year in the hospital in Wainwright and Edmonton.

I went back to teaching in 1965 at Buffalo Park School, Camp Wainwright. Hugh passed away suddenly on November 7th, 1967, two weeks after we moved to Wainwright. Since the school closed down in 1973, I am teaching in Wainwright Elementary.

The children are all living in close proximity. Irwin works for Alberta Wheat Pool in Lloydminster and lives at Blackfoot. Eleanor lives in Wainwright and cooks at the Battle River Lodge, she has two girls.

Keith is married to Susan Macleod and is rig manager for Bow Island (A.T.C.O.). They and a daughter Shonna live in Edgerton.

Donna is married to Glenn Smith, a chartered accountant, in Lloydminster.

Doreen is married to Robert Schmid and they have two girls Pamela and Trudy. They live in Edmonton since Bob is paralyzed from an accident. They both attend the University of Alberta.

Audrey married Neil Poulsen, a carpenter, in Lloydminster. They have one girl Jenny.

Marlene works in the Regional office of The Bank of Commerce in Edmonton.

Leonard lives in Wainwright and works as a driller for Bow Island. He is engaged to Debbie Sawchuck from Edgerton, and will be married August 7th, 1982.



Right to left: Elliott Family: Irwin, Donna, Doreen, Audrey, Susan, Keith, Norma, Marlene, Eleanor, Leonard.

THE MARTIN ENGER FAMILY

by Georgina Enger

Martin Enger lived most of his life near or in Irma, although born in Eidsvold, Norway. He came to Selkirk, Manitoba at the age of three years, then to Wainwright and eventually to his parents' home at the Battle River Bridge in 1909. He told of herding a thousand sheep with his two year older brother, Ole, for "Sheepy" Smith. They had a horse, dog and a big gun. To fire this gun one held it to his shoulder and the other braced him before pulling the trigger. This was just to scare the coyotes and had to be done several times a day.

Schooling was sketchy. He did attend in Wainwright before the Sunny Brae school was built, but in the spring of 1915 he and brother Einar walked over five miles from the bridge to Sunny Brae. He was in grade three to start, but was in grade eight when he finished in 1916.

At the age of fifteen years, he went to work for a farmer, Travis Sellars and his sister Clara, on their farm E. 1/2 22-45-8. From Travis he learned blacksmithing and steam engineering, getting his papers for traction steam engineering. Following a picnic in Irma, typhoid fever broke out in the district. Among those ill were Martin, Travis Sellars, Gordon Fenton, Leslie Lennon and Mrs. Irene Hardy. All recovered successfully except Travis who had to have an operation for ulcers. Before entering hospital Travis drew up the deed of sale of his farm to Martin in the event of his death. Unfortunately this occurred.

Martin had some years previously purchased the S.W. 15-45-8-W4th, being C.P.R. land. With the Sellars' land he asked his brother Ole to join him and they worked in partnership until 1930. Clara Sellars was their housekeeper. Later Martin bought the S.W. 22-45-8 from her and the N.W. 22-45-8 from the homesteader Ed Grady. In 1929 he married Georgina Fenton, a schoolteacher and neighbor girl. They lived in a small

house on the original homestead site until 1946 when they moved their buildings to the N.W. 22-45-8 beside Highway 14 and built a new house. Both this house and big barn have been razed by fire since. While a girl Georgina never missed a day at school for ten years.

Shortly after Crescent Hill School was opened in 1930 and when Clara Sellars left for Arcade, New York, to be married in 1931, Martin took her place as a trustee on the school board. He held this office until the school was closed in 1947.

Music was Martins' enjoyment and as a teenager took correspondence lessons in violin. He, with Julius Stougaard on banjo, became the Hawkins' orchestra for dances in schoolhouses. They were joined by his brother Ole on the coronet and they played for many years. In the early 40's music was needed again and he formed an orchestra with his wife Georgina at the piano, Allan Taylor on the saxophone and sometimes Edwin Sanders on the banjo, plus his violin. They played in all the schools in the district east of Irma, sometimes at the Army Camp and in Keifer's theatre. One month Martin and Georgina took in forty-eight dollars for themselves, playing at eight dances until three or four a.m.

Life on the farm was not without its dangerous times. While operating the circular saw cutting the year's supply of wood, the blade came loose and sawed up over Martin's left shoulder. A cow kicked him and broke his leg quite badly. The miracle of Penicillin, just coming into use in 1945, saved his life from a ruptured appendix from which he spent a month in Wainwright Hospital and two weeks in Edmonton. A bull attacked him, throwing him into a wire fence off the ground where he became entangled. He called the dog and he saved Martin from further pounding.

Their two children Joy Georgina and Arnold Martin were born while the farm was their home.

In 1954 Martin and Georgina sold their farm to W. Veer and moved to Irma. Her brother Eldon Fenton built



*Martin Enger, Arnold,
Joy and Georgina, 1946.*

their house, assisted by Martin and Arnold in west Irma. Martin went to work as a steam engineer at oil drilling rigs, also did carpenter work, caretaker for the rink before and after the arena was built, and lastly as town foreman. Georgina was bookkeeper at the Co-op store for four years. In 1959 they purchased the drug store from Mrs. Lang. This store, renamed Irma Medical Supplies, was their livelihood until they sold it to Dave Ho in January, 1973.

Martin became a Steward in the United Church in 1950 and later an Elder, continuing in these offices all the rest of his life. For many years he sang in the choir too, in the tenor section. He served the town as councillor and was Mayor at the time of his death in June, 1975.

Georgina, too has been a Steward and Elder in the church. She joined the choir in 1947 and in 1966 became its leader. This office she has served, except for two years, when Eunice Jones was leader, to the present time. She joined the Ladies Aid in 1930 and continued helping through the change of names from Women's Association to United Church Women. In the Women's Association she became the first President of the Wainwright Presbytery W.A. When the Presbytery enlarged to include the northern charges, she became the first President of St. Paul United Presbytery W.A. After holding several other provincial offices she became President of the Alberta Conference W.A. and served as such from 1957-1959.

Martin and Georgina enjoyed travelling. Their longest trips were to his birthplace in Norway, also Sweden and Denmark, the European Low Countries and Great Britain. They also toured Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands and Tahiti, with two nights on the Island of Moorea.

Joy became a schoolteacher and taught mostly primary grades. She made her home on their farm in the Gilt Edge District with her husband Kenn Teeter. Their son Darrel is married to Barbara Smith and they live in Edmonton where he has completed his Bachelor of Science from the University of Alberta. Joanne, the daughter, with husband Jack Keller, lives in Wainwright. Joy again took up teaching in 1969 and after two years at the Wainwright

Army Camp, she and Joanne moved to Medicine Hat to teach. There she married Barrie Frain, a flying instructor. They now make their home on their farm at Cabri, Saskatchewan.

Arnold found sports his main interest so trained at the University four years for his Bachelor of Education, with emphasis on Physical Education and later his Master of Arts degree. In 1962 he married Donna Huestis, a Physical Education teacher and they have two children, Timothy and Shannon, all interested in sports. Among Arnold's many awards were Alberta Urban High School Coach of the year in 1964; Alberta Amateur Football Coach of the year, Assistant Coach of the Golden Bear Football team when they won the Dominion Championship in 1967. He was a member of the Provincial Senior Baseball Champion teams in 1958, 1960 and 1962, also the Old-Timer Provincial Baseball Champions in 1980. He and Donna make their home in Edmonton where he is Program Co-ordinator for Senior High School Athletics in Edmonton.



Farm home of Martin and Georgina Enger remodelled to this in 1948 by Eldon Fenton. Both this house and barn were later destroyed by fire.



Mrs. Georgina Enger's birthday, 1983. Back Row: Arnold, Jack Kellar, Donna (Arnold's wife), Joanne Kellar, Mrs. Barbara Teeter. Front Row: Timothy Enger, Shannon Enger, Georgina Enger, Darrel Teeter, Joy and Barrie Frain.

THE OLAF ENGER FAMILY

by Georgina Enger

Olaf Enger immigrated to Selkirk, Manitoba, in 1904. Bertha, his wife, and five children, James, Elise, Ole, Martin and baby Clara, followed him a year later. Coming from Eidsvold, Norway, it took them three weeks by boat, the Celtic.

Olaf worked as a sawyer at a sawmill. He had to stand outside in all weather to do this and became ill for nearly a year.

James, at the age of thirteen years built boxcar doors assisted by Ole. Baby Clara died and a son Einar was born there before they moved to Wainwright in 1909.

The Norwegian way of naming was confusing at that time. Olaf's last name was Edwardson, but the children were registered at school as Olafson (son of Olaf) in Selkirk, but when they came to Wainwright they took the name Enger as that was the name of the farm where they lived in Norway.

James, the eldest son, apprenticed as a machinist in the railroad shops in Wainwright and went on to be head machinist in railroad shops in Jasper.

Olaf became watchman at the mile long Battle River railroad bridge in the fall of 1909. His duty was to cross the bridge after every train day and night. The west half of the bridge was wood so was in danger of fires from the steam engines. This part has since been gravel filled.

They lived in bunkhouses left by the bridge builders until a railroad boxcar was set up at the east end of the bridge. This made a three roomed house. Not having any means of transportation at first Olaf often had to pack a hundred pound sack of flour across his shoulders home from a neighbor a mile away. He was a small man too. Johnny, Mabel and Clara Betty were born while they lived here. Olaf became a pumpman at the railroad water tanks for a number of years. He purchased and lived on the farm, the N. 1/2 23-45-8-W4th before moving to Entwistle. He died in 1944 and his wife Bertha in 1960.

Einar, the only son living now, makes his home in Chilliwack, B.C. with his wife Nellie. They have two sons and a daughter. Einar made his stake working as a section hand on the railroad and shovelling coal in their coaldocks for his progression of grocery stores. He reached his ambition of a million dollar turnover before retiring, although having only a grade three formal education. His son Roy is continuing with an I.G.A. store at Veddar Crossing, B.C.



Olaf and Bertha Enger on their Golden wedding day, October, 1941.



One mile long Grand Trunk Pacific R.R. (now C.N.R.) Bridge. The wooden west half has been filled in with gravel. One of the shacks, the cook-house was Olaf Enger's first home in 1909. He had to cross the bridge before and after every train day and night.



The well known means of transportation "the speeder" on the R.R. at the east end of Battle River Bridge where Olaf Enger lived while he was watchman from 1909 until after the first World War.

Mabel, makes her home in Cloverdale with her husband Joe Holt and daughter Mavis. They have two sons who live in Vancouver. Joe is the son of Joshua Holt of the Battle Heights District here. Mabel took her education at Sunny Brae and Crescent Hill Schools. Joe took his at Battle Heights. He worked for Mrs. N. King for a number of years.

Johnny spent most of his young life in the Crescent Hill District where he farmed. He married Ida Dahl of Court, Saskatchewan and they had one daughter Dorothy. He spent many years working for the C.N. Railway, first as pumpman and lastly as a plumber. They made their home in Edmonton in later years. Ida died at fifty years of age. While vacationing with his wife Frances, at their cottage near Ashmont, Johnny died suddenly in 1981. Dorothy Smith has her home in Edmonton.

ENGHER - OLE AND ALMA

Ole was born near Eidsvold, Norway, in October 1898. The family came to Canada in 1905, settling at Selkirk, Manitoba. They moved to Wainwright in 1907. His father was hired as a watchman for the railway bridge across the Battle River between Fabyan and Hawkins. This bridge was built in 1908. It was almost a mile long. The east half of it was steel and the remainder was a wooden structure. Mr. Enger, walking or using a hand-car, had to check the bridge after every train to be sure all was well and that the train had not set fire. The family grew up in a small house beside the track at the east end of the bridge.

Ole worked with his older brother, Jimmy, in the railroad shop at Transcona, Manitoba. Because of dampness in the shop he had to give up this work. Near the end of the first World War he enlisted in the Navy but the war ended before he went overseas.

In the early twenties he worked at Edgerton for Harry Davis, his brother-in-law, and the Guys, Leonard and Ross. Ole was fond of music and enjoyed playing in the McCafferty U.F.A. Band while at Edgerton. When he returned to the Irma District he farmed with his brother



Ole and Alma, 1937.

Martin. Martin and he and Julius Stougaard had a little orchestra and played for local dances for a time.

I came from Toronto to Irma in 1909 with my Mother, Margaret Miles, and my sister. Dad was already here. There were five children in the family but I am the only one remaining at Irma.

In the spring of 1914 I went to school in Irma for a short time, then measles broke out and the school was closed. I then went to Roseberry school. I rode a little white pony and had a few problems with him. When I had to ride through a slough he would want to nibble the long grass that grew in these wet places.

When I completed my grade eight I had to go to Wainwright for a week to write the grade eight exams. This was a trying experience for most of us as we hadn't been away from home for that long. Wainwright seemed so far away in the horse and buggy days.



Christmas 1980. Walter, Alma, Shirley Swanson, Patricia Welguz, Alice Seguin in front.

When it came time for me to go to High School I had to stay in Wainwright. I worked for my room and board at Mr. and Mrs. Rowe's home. He was manager of the Merchants Bank. They were very kind folk. I got a birthday and Christmas card from them for many years. I took grade nine and part of grade ten in Wainwright. When a High School class was started in Irma I returned home and finished my schooling here. I went to Camrose Normal in order to get my Teaching Certificate. I taught at Ross School for three years and one year at Crescent Hill. Ole and I were married in August 1930. We built a house on the S.W. 15-45-8-4. Our near neighbors were the Bacons, George McLeans, Rock Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Rabby. They were very kind and we had many good visits. Mr. Rabby was the Section foreman at Hawkins. We lived up on the hill from Hawkins station. In the winter Mr. Rabby would bring our mail from Irma. It was a great help.

The thirties were hard years, because of dry seasons, and the low prices for farm products. In 1931 wheat sold for nineteen cents a bushel. In 1934 we sold eight pigs, five of which were bacon and three were heavy. We got twenty-eight dollars for all eight pigs.

Ole plowed fire-guards for the Railway. When they were building the highway in the early thirties he worked for a short time after harvest. This highway was built by manpower and horsepower. It was a gravelled road. These extras all helped out.

In 1939 when Ole's health failed we moved to the farm, now owned by Ron Thurston, just north of Irma and rented our farm. This move made it easier for the children to get to school. In 1940 Ole purchased a little home for us in Irma. He passed away in September 1940. We had four children - Shirley, Walter, Alice and Patricia. The children and I moved into Irma in November 1940.



Four generations: Alma, son Walter, granddaughter Diane holding Alma's great-grandson Robbie.

In order for me to stay at home with the children I did babysitting, day work, worked in the telephone office, and worked at the egg-grading station. Each of the family have their own histories in this book so I won't say anything more except that they all grew up so fast and are doing well for themselves.

I resumed teaching and taught for another nineteen and a half years before retiring in 1970. I seem to be busier now than when we were all together and when teaching. Getting slower and it takes longer to do the things I should.

MY MEMORIES OF IRMA

by Walter Enger

The first seven years of my life were spent on our farm at Hawkins. My playmates there were the George McLean children and Victor and Eddie Rabby.

I went to Crescent Hill School in 1938-39. Miss Della Stone was my first teacher.

In the Fall of 1939 we moved to a farm near Irma. It was easier for my sisters Shirley and Alice and myself to attend school. While living in the Crescent Hill S.D. we were four miles from school. There were no school buses in those days. My father wasn't well so getting to school was difficult.

After Dad's passing in 1940 we moved into Irma. Irma, as I recall, was a neat little village with a population of approximately three hundred eighteen people. The "City Centre" consisted of three basic streets - Main Street, Highway Fourteen and the Curling Rink street.

When I started to school in Irma in the Fall of 1939 there were two school buildings, the old gray two-room elementary school and the one room high school. In 1944 another room was added to the High School.

The original "cottage school" was not used for school purposes until about 1942 or 1943 when it was used for the Junior Classes. The need for a larger school became apparent, so in 1949-1950 a new school was built where the original had been. This building housed all the classes. While this new school was considerably smaller than it is now, it was complete with indoor plumbing and an auditorium. Previous to this the school plumbing was of the "outdoor" type.

I remember Irma's first school bus, a blue job that really looked like something out of the past.

Some of the best remembered teachers of my school days who played an important part in my life are Della Stone - grade one at Crescent Hill School 1938-39, Gertrude Holt, Bert Wells, Havey Elford, Charlie DeTro, Stanley Reeds and Donald Gunn.

Associated with school and its activities there was always a team sport. My favorite was hockey because it was the only sport I was big enough (or brave enough) to play. Mr. Gunn devoted many long cold hours for years to make sure Irma had a winning school hockey team. We didn't have an arena in those days. We had an outdoor rink. I guess he taught me how to "stand in there". I was the goalie.

Another favorite pastime was curling. Mr. Reeds was a curling enthusiast and therefore encouraged his students to curl. For two or three years I was the lead on Mr. Stan.



Walter Enger Family. Back Row: Laurie & Diane. Middle Row: Sandra & Walter. Lower Corner: Richard.

Brown's curling team.

During the summer months much of my time was spent with Billie Masson doing a variety of things. Bill's Dad was particularly good to me. He made sure I was included in trips to the Battle River for swimming, Hardisty Lake, and in the summer holidays a trip to Edmonton. In the Fall there were hunting trips.

For years I had a paper route in Irma and delivered both the Journal and the Bulletin until the Journal bought out the Bulletin. Boy, do I remember the cold winter nights when the Sunburst bus would be late. The papers arrived in Irma about 8:30 P.M. via the bus. The bus stop was at Carl Anquist's place of business and I can remember sitting listening to all of the stories he would tell while waiting for the bus to arrive. It was not unusual for the bus to be late because of snowdrifts in the winter or mud in the spring.

I got my first real business experience through the paper route. In those days you could subscribe for delivery six days a week, all for twenty-five cents. I remember doing my collection rounds one Saturday morning when I ran into trouble. It seems that one of my customers claimed that he did not get his paper on Thursday night and he was not going to pay for it. Now I didn't have any control over the wind that was blowing that night. It likely blew away and I told him. He said he would deduct a nickel and pay me twenty cents. I realized that my profit would be shot under this arrangement, so I quickly countered with, O.K. if you want to pay by the day, then you owe me thirty cents. You see the paper cost five cents per single copy during the week and ten cents on Saturday. I got paid the regular weekly price of twenty-five cents. Little did I know at that time that this was likely the beginning of my banking career.

Another little enterprise I engaged in was working for Jim Pond's Dad at the Club Cafe. Hauling water, stacking wood, grinding coffee etc. would get me fifty cents, a cup of coffee and a piece of pie. As you can gather, Irma was without water or natural gas.

During the summers of 1947, '48 and '49 I worked on the farms of either Bill Barber or Sid Knowles. While I was gainfully employed in all farming activities, my sisters took over my paper route. I learned many skills on the farm, such as milking eight cows morning and night, feeding a million chickens and turkeys and two million pigs. Oh yes, the garden that had to be hoed and weeded was at least forty acres. In the Fall there was a billion bushels of wheat to shovel. The above is somewhat exaggerated but by now you will get the idea that I hated farming. Guess that is why I am in Phoenix, Arizona.

I remember when there was a C.N.R. station, passenger trains and Guiltner's dray to haul the mail and freight to and from the station. Businesses that I remember include the four grain elevators, McFarland's store, Elford's store - now the Drop In Centre, Keifer's Hall - now the Pool Room and Barber Shop, Masson's Office, Foxwell's store - now the Co-op, Hlynka's Shoe Shop, Carl Anquist's business, the Egg Grading station, The Town Hall, Lovig's Garage, Feero's Lumber Yard, Bob Stone's Bakery, Club Cafe, the Bank of Montreal, Fletcher's Hardware, the Post Office, Hedley's Pool Hall and Barber Shop, Frickelton's Drug Store, Irma Dress Shop, Long's Boarding House, P.E. Jones and Sons, Hutchinson's Agency, Imperial Lumber, Bob Hanson's Service Station, and Sather's Garage.

Speaking of Sather's Garage I can recall watching Irma's fine fire Department at work. Remember when the fire engine was a two wheeled cart which carried a tank containing chemicals?

Early one morning when I was visiting Irma, I can't remember the year, 1955 I think, fire broke out in Sather's Garage building, which at that time was operated by Mr. Pendleton, and the fire department was called. Shortly thereafter along came the fire engine hauled by a pick up truck. The hose wasn't much larger than a good-sized garden hose. Men were scrambling around the engine unwinding the hose and getting it directed to the base of the fire, which by this time was through the roof, and the pressure valves are opened. The men holding the hose waited for something to happen - Nothing!. It seems that someone had forgotten to recharge the engine with chemicals therefore it was useless when needed.

Other business establishments that existed were the Gratton View Hotel, Symington's Garage, and Mr. Hurst's Machine Shop.

My wife, Sandra and I, visit Irma as frequently as we can and during the past thirty-four years I have noticed several changes. These changes certainly reflect the modernization and growth of the town.

I left Irma July 3, 1950 to go to work for the Imperial Bank of Canada in Edmonton. I married Sandra Campbell in Edmonton in 1955. In 1960 we were transferred to Camrose and in 1961 transferred to Calgary.

In December we moved to Los Angeles to work for Citizens National Bank. In 1969 we moved to Arizona and have resided in Tempe since 1971. Tempe is a city

adjoining Phoenix. I am vice-president with Great Western Bank in charge of the Loan Review Department and the Consumer Compliance Department. Sandra and I have two married daughters, Diane and Laurie, three grandchildren, and a son, Richard, who graduated from High School in May 1984.

CARL ENGLER

by Doris Fenton

Carl Engler came from Ontario in the early forties to work in the Alberta harvest. That fall he helped the Fentons and Engers. For several years he spent winters in Ches Feero's lumber camp out from Edson, returning to the Fenton farm in the spring. He bought S.W. 33-45-8-W4th and farmed it while he worked for Stuart.

Carl was a great worker. He loved to stook, using a fork, but when he raced with Stuart and the pressure was on, he'd throw the fork away and go at it by hand. He used brute strength rather than skill at branding time and would finish the day with his clothes in tatters. In spring he and Stuart kept the tractor going around the clock, taking turns sleeping in the truck. The year the highway was rebuilt Stuart hauled gravel from four A.M. to ten P.M. Carl drove the truck the rest of the night hauling from Fenton's pit to Wainwright. He farmed in the daytime.

After nine years with Fentons, Carl got a job with Farm Electric building powerlines to farms all over Alberta. About this time he sold his land to Bill Dootson. While on the job he was struck and killed by a power pole. He is buried in Wetaskiwin.

ELMER AND JOHN ERICKSON

Elmer and John Erickson arrived from Volga, South Dakota early in May 1908. Elmer had taken care of Olaf Larson's horses and belongings on the train and when he arrived in Loughheed he simply hitched them up and drove to the Larson homestead in Coal Springs district. Mr. Sol Erickson had filed on two adjacent quarters for his sons in 1907 and then returned to his home in South Dakota. Sol Erickson had come from Ljungby, Sweden in 1869 to Winnipeg and later lived in Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota.

In 1871 he had been in the midst of a buffalo migration that stretched as far as the eye could see in all directions. He took refuge with his horse on a bushy knoll for two days and nights while the herd passed. Ten years later the buffalo were gone, mostly killed by sharpshooters and hunters sent out as the railroads were being built. Sol also narrowly escaped death in 1872 when the Indians massacred all seventy-six inhabitants of New Ulm, Minn. Sol and friend had left early that morning for a forest to the north where they cut ties for the railroad.

Sol married Olena Myrhe who had immigrated from Lillehammer, Norway in 1880.

John and Elmer lived together in a sod house and also had a sod barn. Much of the time they worked out, first on the railroad and also on threshing rigs. To make a few



Elmer Erickson, John Erickson.

dollars they did some custom seeding and breaking with oxen, not without problems though, as one pair of oxen strayed all the way back to Sedgewick to their old home. Heel flies also caused problems and on occasions the oxen ran away with the plow to cool their heels in the nearby lake. John was a natural mechanic and spent a couple summers driving tractors for breaking in the Irma area.

John bought a Rumely threshing outfit in 1913 at a cost of six thousand dollars. He pulled a five bottom plow and Carl Lindquist usually went along to operate the plow on his custom jobs, many in the Strawberry Plains area. John lived with Elmer till 1920 when he bought Oscar Lindquist's homestead and moved there. In 1924 he married Hattie Knudson.

John always threshed with a full crew of eight teams and had his own car with a Chinese cook from Vancouver. A cow was tied to the back for milk and cream and it was the cook's job to milk her. Because good meals were always served, John had no trouble getting help. One of the cook's favorite desserts was cream puffs, not the usual dessert for thresh crews.

A sad memory is Christmas, 1928, when John took sick with mastoid. A special train, with caboose, coal car and engine was chartered by Martin Knudson for three hundred and twelve dollars to rush John to Edmonton, but it was too late to save him. Dr. Murray and Elmer accompanied John and they had a clear right-of-way for the two hour trip to Edmonton. Nearing Edmonton a rim came off the locomotive wheel due, some said, to the speed and another locomotive had to complete the trip. John was only thirty-eight years old and sadly missed by all.

Elmer married Anna Johnson on February 10th, 1915. She had come from Stadlandet, Norway in 1912, crossing the Atlantic on "The Empress of Ireland", a ship which shortly after sank in the St. Lawrence River. The ship was in collision with another ship in the fog and nearly all aboard were drowned. Anna was a sister of Gina Fluevog and she worked in the Hardisty Hotel before marriage.

Elmer and Anna were both hard workers. On a farmstead without a tree, they planted hundreds of trees and ended up with a tidy and always neat farm. Oscar Lindquist had built a frame house for Elmer in 1914 and they lived in the same house till 1946 when they moved to the coast. Elmer was always interested in sports and played on the local baseball team. He played in the band directed by Olaf Larson and also was secretary for many years of the local school board.



Elmer Erickson family 1943. Lloyd Erickson and wife Aurora, Mary Ruth, Arline, Elma, Ralph, Mrs. Stakkeland (Elmer's sister), John, Anna, Elmer, Phyllis and Evelyn.



Elmer, Anna, Lloyd Erickson and Ina Knudson. Note: 1917 license plate.

John and Elmer bought a McLaughlin Buick car in 1916 and when they split up partnership in 1920, Elmer bought an Overland touring car. He also bought a Titan tractor and an International separator.

Elmer and Anna raised eight children, five girls and three boys.

Lloyd the eldest, married Aurora Johnson of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, in 1943. They have four children and presently are retired and live on a farm near Kingman, Alberta. Their four children are Bob, Marilyn and Rick of Edmonton and Ron of Vancouver, B.C.

Phyllis married Irving Moe of Mt. Vernon, Washington. They live on a dairy farm, have three boys, Gerald, Donald and David, all of Mt. Vernon, Washington.

Arline married a fisherman, Harold Jensen and they live in Edmonds, Washington. They have four children, Mark, Brian, Sylvia, and Tim who all live in Edmonds, Washington.

Ralph married Lilly Nilson of Irma, Alberta. They have four children, Dennis, Melvin, Linda and Carolyn. Dennis lives in Regina, Saskatchewan and the rest live in the Irma district. Ralph farms the old homestead and has increased the size of the farm.

Mary Ruth married Doctor Vernon Curtis and presently they live in Grants Pass, Oregon. They had five children, all girls; Judy - deceased, Sharon who lives in Kehei Maui, Nancy who lives in Redlands, California, Colleen in Washington, D.C. and Carol of Grants Pass Oregon. Ruth and husband also lived in California, Washington, D.C. and served in India as medical missionaries. The family has traveled around the world.

Elma is married to Paul Burlingame and lives in San Francisco. She has one son Douglas also of San Francisco.

John lives in Vancouver, B.C. and has been a pilot since 1951. He spent seven years as an officer in the R.C.A.F. and then joined C.P. Air. He presently is a D.C. 10 captain and his travels and work have taken him to more than sixty countries around the world.

Evelyn married August Frauenfeld of Edmonton. August is a graduate social worker and manages a boys' school at Bon Accord. He was a government employee for many years. Evelyn is a graduate nurse and also has a degree in nursing. They live in Edmonton and have five children; Janice, Celeste, Paul, Patrice and Angela, all of Edmonton.

Anna passed away in 1950 at the age of fifty-eight years. Hard work and long hours had taken its toll. Elmer passed away in 1970 at the age of eighty-two.

The first settlers were special people and we should pay tribute to them for their foresight in laying the foundations for a district where everyone can be proud to call Irma their home.

LLOYD S. ERICKSON

I was born September 19th, 1916, in Coal Springs District near Irma, Alberta. My parents were Elmer and Anna Erickson. Dad homesteaded in 1908. During the first years he worked on construction of C.N. Railroad between Wainwright and Edson. My father was born in Volga, South Dakota in 1888 and his father emigrated from Kanna, Sweden to Winnipeg in 1869. Later he homesteaded at Volga, S.D. My father's mother came from Lillehammer, Norway, in 1880 to South Dakota. My mother was Anna Johnson who immigrated to Hardisty in 1912 from Stadlandet, Norway.

My earliest recollections are of the early homesteaders who lived in sod, log or frame houses. They had come from various countries or Eastern Canada and generally lived in harmony in their respective districts. Our district was Coal Springs and the school was the centre of



Lloyd and Aurora Erickson - 1943.

community life. We were fortunate in having good teachers. I remember Mary Storm as one of my first teachers and also Elsie Park Young who later became Elsie Park Gowan.

My father farmed together with his brother John until 1921 and I remember vividly riding on his Rumely tractor and also riding in a box on his plow. My Dad had made a box attached to the plow platform. John drove the tractor and my Dad operated the levers to regulate the plow bottoms. The plow rode quite steady even on rocky soil. John did a lot of custom plowing, breaking and threshing in the district.

Hard work was the order of the day. Horses were used on all farms and hours were from sunup to sundown. Housewives' work was also hard without benefit of electricity or running water.

After finishing school in Coal Springs, I attended Irma High School for grades 10 and 11. I attended Camrose Lutheran College for grade 12. Later I attended SAIT in Calgary for two years and graduated from a course in Industrial Electricity and Radio.

In 1940 I joined the R.C.A.F. as an Electrical Mechanic and spent 1941, 1942 and 1943 in Yorkton, Saskatchewan No. 6 S.F.T.S. In 1944 I was posted as Sergeant to No. 428 Squadron overseas and later posted to No. 405 Squadron at Gransden Lodge. This was a Lancaster Pathfinder Squadron. On return to Canada I was posted to R.C.A.F. Station Greenwood, N.S.

After I was discharged in September, 1945, I obtained employment with Canadian Pacific Airlines in Edmonton where I worked two years on many older aircraft like Canso, Bellanca, Lodestars and D.C. 3.

In 1947 I went to Vancouver and worked nine years for Trans Canada Air Lines (Air Canada) and enjoyed the work with North Stars, Viscounts and Super Constellations. Next followed twenty-five years with Pacific Western Airlines at Edmonton where I started as Shop Foreman and later was maintenance supervisor for northern regions. We entered the Jet age with 737s, 727s, 707s and also Hercules and Electra Aircraft. During my

last year with P.W.A. I was on a certification committee representing P.W.A. and assisted other Airline Reps and Boeing Reps in drawing up a maintenance schedule for the new 767 Aircraft. The aircraft was rolled out August 4th, 1981 and first flew a month later.

I married Aurora Johnson of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan in 1943 and we have four children, Bob, Rick and Marilyn of Edmonton and Ron of Vancouver.

I retired in the fall of 1981 and now live on a small farm near Kingman, Alberta.

LILLY AND RALPH ERICKSON FAMILY

by Ralph Erickson

I, Ralph, was born at Irma in 1922. I attended school at Coal Springs, Melbrae and Camrose Lutheran College. In the spring of 1942 I graduated from Olds School of Agriculture, and for a few years farmed at home with my father. In 1946 the folks rented out the land and the family moved to a farm near Mt. Vernon, Washington.

I returned to the farm in 1948. It was a late spring and seeding was not in full swing until the middle of May. The Battle River rose to a record high that spring, and motorists were crossing the bridge near Fabyan at their own risk.

In 1951 Lilly Nilson and I were married. Her education began at Strawberry Plains school. English was used very little at home so she first had to learn a new language. She graduated from high school at Camrose Lutheran College and worked at the Bank of Montreal in Viking.

We raised a family of four, two sons and two daughters, all of whom graduated from Irma High School.

Dennis was hired by Pacific Western Airlines and has been with them for twelve years. He is married to Linda Lou Lukens, and they have two children, Teena and



Ralph Erickson family on Linda and Dale's wedding day, August 28th, 1982. Melvin and Laurie Anne and children. Linda, Dale, Carolyn, Dennis, Lou and family. Centre: Lilly and Ralph.

Kirby. They reside in Regina, where he is sales manager for Pacific Western Airlines.

Melvin attended Mount Royal College in Calgary, where he received his commercial pilot's license. He was employed by P.W.A. in Edmonton for a few years before moving to the Likness farm near the homeplace, where he farms together with his father. He is married to Laurie Anne McFarland and they have three children, Wendy, Ginger and Kent.

Linda attended Camrose Lutheran College for a year. She is married to Dale Banks and they reside in Irma. Dale works for Lakeland Insulation and Linda is employed at the Auxiliary Hospital in Wainwright.

Carolyn graduated from Lakeland College and is employed at Buffalo Springs Motel in Wainwright.

After my mother passed away in 1950, Dad spent the summer months helping on the farm, and the winters with his sister in Washington.

Through the years we have enjoyed a fair amount of traveling, but are always glad to come back to the old hometown of Irma.

HENRY FARTHING

Henry, Hank, as we all knew him, was born in Minnesota, August 24th, 1871. He came to Canada about the year 1890 and finally located on his farm in the spring of 1918 at Irma. This farm was the homestead of J.H. Lennon. He built up, by hard work and perseverance, a fine foundation which he sold to Mr. O. Halvorsen in 1947.

He bought the house that Mr. H. Osterhout owned and moved into the village of Irma in 1947.

Hank was well-known and respected and was a man of his word. Honest to the core and underneath a rough exterior had a kind heart. He was especially fond of children and was very kind to them.

He had a pair of mules which he brought to this country and used them in his farming.

He passed away on January 25th, 1951. Joe Burton lived on the land until moving into Irma. Wayne Burton lives there now.

DEBS AND HARRIET FAULKNER

Debs was born west of Leduc, in the Conjuring Creek district on July 8, 1909. I, Harriet MacFarlane was born at Invergordon, Scotland on December 28, 1909.

I came to the Rodino District in May of 1910 with my mother, to where my Dad farmed S.W. 20-48-10, and I attended Rodino School.

I met Debs at a dance at Rodino School. We were married in Edmonton on October 23, 1935. We lived for three years on N.E. 26-48-11. The first of our three girls was born on October 13, 1936. We moved to S.W. 14-48-10 in 1938. Dorothy went to school at Willowview and then took grade 10 in Mannville. In May of 1955 she was married to Stan White of Ranfurly. They have a family of four; Brian, Betty, Brenda and Barbara. Brian is married and has three little girls; Shauna, April and



Debs Faulkner, Harriet, Gladys, Jean, Dorothy.

Kristie, which gives me great-grandchildren.

Jean was born on January 3, 1942 and went to Willowview and Albert to school. She was married to Phil Hogg of Kinsella on November 1966. They have a family of four; Keith, Melva, Pat and Darlene.

Gladys was born on March 11, 1946. She started school at Willowview and when it closed she went to Albert and graduated in Irma High School. She was married to Lee Davis of Cloverlodge District in October 1965. They now live north of Niton, which is a bit east of Edson. They have a family of three; LEEANNE, Cody and Zane.

Debs passed away in December of 1976.

GEORGE FAULKNER

Geo. Faulkner was born in 1874 at Tennecape on the Minso Basin, in Nova Scotia, and came west at the age of 22. He settled first in the Kootenays of B.C. and worked in coal mines at Ainsworth and Sandon. He came to Conjuring Creek in 1902 and married Eleanor McLellan, also of Nova Scotia. They then took up a homestead at Conjuring Creek, west of Leduc. They farmed there until 1916. From there they moved to the Mannville district and farmed there for two years.

In 1918 they were on the move again, this time to north of Kinsella to what was known as the "May Law" place, where Tom Greenwood now lives. Again in 1922 they moved to Jarrow. They must have been looking for something they could not find, so in 1927 they moved again, to north of Kinsella to what was called "Tom Stokes' place", N.W. 16-48-10-W4th and farmed there until 1941. They then moved to the Uncas district sixteen miles east of Edmonton. He sold his farm in 1963 and at the age of eighty-nine, went to Cuba. He took two hundred sheep and a lot of his machinery, and worked for the Cuban Government until his passing on November 11th, 1970. Names of children born to this

marriage, and where they live at present are:

Albert Hugh Faulkner - Uncas.
Beatrice French - Edmonton.
Carrie Hopper - Edmonton.
Angus Faulkner - Uncas (Deceased).
Debs Faulkner - Minburn (Deceased).
Effie Graham - Surrey, B.C.
Bertha Faulkner - Kinsella (Deceased).
Mable Blondheim - Creston, B.C.
Doris Faulkner - Wetaskiwin.
Addie Hruschak - Texado Island, B.C.
Allen Faulkner - Wetaskiwin.
Walter Faulkner - Leduc.
Doug Faulkner - Wetaskiwin.

CHESTER FEERO

Chester Lyle Feero was born on September 26, 1907. He moved with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Miles Feero and family from Edna, South Dakota, to the Sangudo area of Alberta remaining in that district for some time. On December 2, 1931, he married Ida Anne McMann of Ribstone, Alberta, where they resided for five years. Following this they moved a number of times, but their main place of residence was in the Edmonton area.

Mr. Feero always had a great love for the Lord's work and wherever he had been he served faithfully and well. Many people have sat under his ministry as a teacher, but probably his greatest area of service, because of his spiritual qualities, was in the office of an elder. Feeros had four children; Clare, Roger, Freida and Velma.

When in the Irma area Feeros lived in town for a time where he operated a lumberyard. He bought land from Jack Fletcher and he built a house. Today the land is owned by Robert Dempsey.

ELDON AND ISABELL FENTON FAMILY

as told to G. Enger

Eldon Fenton arrived in what was to be the Sunny Brae School District in Irma on June 1st, 1907, with his mother, two sisters and one brother. They left the farm at Napan, New Brunswick and came via Calgary to Hardisty by train, where his father met them with a team of horses and a truck wagon and took them to his homestead S.W. 20-45-8-W4th.

Eldon was born in Petitcodiac, New Brunswick in 1890, son of James Fenton, whose grandparents emigrated to New Brunswick from Scotland in 1814, wading ashore in the Miramachi River near Chatham. His mother was Bessie (Magee) Fenton, whose grandparents emigrated from Ireland in the early eighteen hundreds.

On July 24th, 1911, his father became seriously ill and Eldon took over being the mainstay of the family.

Eldon started school in N.B. but here in the west he went to Wainwright, then to Strawberry Plains and Sunny Brae, before finishing at the first school in Irma with Miss Brickman as teacher. In the fall before, school had been held in the now United Church basement. He was always interested in sports and was one of the first



Eldon Fenton family in 1945. Eldon, Isbell, Elfrieda, Sylvia and Eldred.

goalies on the first Irma hockey team. He kept up the game of curling until he was eighty-three years of age.

In 1918 he bought carloads of cattle with his uncle, H.C. Magee of Stettler, which they shipped and accompanied to Chicago by train for resale. Eldon learned his carpenter work and blacksmithing from his dad. Besides his own he built the houses of Archie Cook, Paul Nemyo and Martin Enger, as well as helping build several more. He helped excavate the United Church manse basement in 1916 and then again in the early 1960's he remodelled and built on the kitchen of the manse and later was head carpenter for the east wing of the United Church. These, with four houses in Wainwright, are some of the landmarks he built.

One particular memory of Eldon's concerns a fire at the family home in 1917. The smudge that had been built in the corral to keep off mosquitoes from you and the cows while you were milking them, had stayed alive and wind had fanned the flames. The fire quickly spread to a large pole framed straw-barn and it was soon in flames. The animals were removed with difficulty and the only loss was two setting hens. The fire continued through the bluff towards the house and up the corner of the big barn to the loft full of hay. In the house was his mother in bed with a three day old baby, Rena, and she held three year old Stuart. The neighbors and townspeople being alerted over the fence wire telephone system, came to help. Water was hauled by team and stoneboat with wooden barrels from a nearby slough. All were thankful no further loss occurred.

Misfortune continued the next day when a young driving horse hung itself in its harness where Eldon had left it and its mate while he walked his sister, Inez and Ruth Brechon, down over the hill to Hawkins railroad station where he flagged the train for them. They were going to Wainwright to write their grade VIII Departmental exams.

Always interested in church work, Eldon drove his mother and a carload of ladies to a Ladies' Aid Meeting at J.H. Elliotts, where he met his future wife, Isbell Miskimmins, in 1925.

Isbell was an Irish lass, daughter of Hugh and Isbell

Miskimmins, who came to Canada in 1925 from County Down, Ireland. They with her two sisters, Molly and Essie, lived on the Brooks' homestead, later settled by Fred Thurston. Her mother and father moved to the Autumn Leaf District north of Wainwright in 1926.

Isabell worked for the Ed Elford family until she and Eldon were married at his parents' home in 1926.

Eldon purchased his first land, the S.E. 19-45-8-W4th from Fred Hill in 1925. Here he built their home in 1927 where they have resided ever since. They bought the N.E. 17-45-8-W4th in 1927 and the section 28-45-8-W4th in 1939. On the section he grew registered seed oats for a number of years. They sold cows in 1936 for nineteen dollars a head and bought ninety head of sheep at two dollars and twenty-five cents each. This formed the nucleus of their large flock they had for thirty-nine years. He is at the age of eighty-six still grazing and feeding twenty-five cows.

Daughter, Elfrieda, was born in 1929 and became a nurse after finishing her schooling in Irma. In 1952 she and Mervyn Stephenson, were married. They have four children, daughters Cathy and Tanis and sons, Marshall and Eldon, and one grandchild. They make their home in Fort McMurray, Alberta, where they operate a drapery store. Mervyn was a steam engineer at the opening of the Oil Sands Plant there and worked at it for many years.

Eldred, the second girl, was her dad's righthand helper until she married James Tindall of Fabyan in 1951. They make their home on their farm just west of Sedgewick. They have two daughters, Lynne Alice and Shelaine and two sons, Lyle and Sheldon, and seven grandchildren.

In March, 1934, their third daughter, Sylvia, was born. She trained as a Nurses' Aid and has served in this profession for twenty-two years. In 1954 she was united in marriage to Robert Shaw of Wainwright and live on their farm southwest of Sedgewick. They have two daughters, Marliiss and Mavis and one son Mark.

Eldon sang in the Methodist Church choir first in 1919 when W.H. King was the leader. Isabell joined the Irma United Church choir in 1957 and Eldon in 1959. They were both members of the United Church Board of Stewards and Eldon was an Elder. Isabell taught Sunday School and from 1951-59 she was a leader of the C.G.I.T. with Mrs. H. Inglis and then two years as Explorer

leader. She was a faithful member of the U.C.W. and was president of the afternoon group for two years.

They made two visits to Isabell's former home near Belfast, Ireland and many visits to Eldon's former home in New Brunswick, but are now satisfied with Irma, Alberta.

MR. AND MRS. JAMES FENTON

by Georgina (Fenton) Enger

James Fenton was born on a farm near Napan, New Brunswick. As a young man he followed the trend by going to Wakefield, Mass., (a suburb of Boston) to work. Here he met Bessie May Magee, who later became his wife at her parents' home at Petitcodiac, N.B. First they lived at Napan, then in Moncton, N.B. where James worked building train coaches in the railroad shops. He came west in 1905 to Edmonton and worked as a carpenter on many of Edmonton's historical buildings.

In 1906 he filed on a homestead S.W. 20-45-8-W4th in the Sunny Brae District of Irma. At the same time a sister Lex and husband John Campbell filed on the N.E. 24-46-9-W4th, also a sister May and husband Ed Armstrong filed on the N.W. 14-45-8-W4th in the same district. An uncle, William McKnight with a son James, homesteaded on the N.E. 7-45-8-W4th in Strawberry Plains. In the spring of 1907 there being no railroad, James drove from Edmonton in five days. He arrived on the farm on May 29th with a team of horses, a truck wagon, a tin stove, a Frost and Wood walking plow (one with changeable bottoms for breaking sod and plowing stubble), twenty five chickens, some lumber, a few pots and pans, a large tent and \$105.00 in money. The next day he drove to Hardisty to meet his wife and four children Eldon - nine years; May - eight years; Inez - six years and Gordon - three years. They had travelled by C.P.R. via Calgary, Wetaskiwin and east to Hardisty. They stayed in the St. Regis Hotel that night and had a very uncomfortable time as a violent storm blew the roof off. The next day they drove north to the farm fording Iron Creek and Gratton Creek on the way. The children enjoyed chasing gophers, a novelty.

After one night on the ground, they built a lumber floor and low sides for the tent. A small straw stack was found on the farm of Chester Smith, N.W. 16-45-8-W4th (later they bought this land when George succumbed to gas in a well he was digging there) and cotton ticks were filled to make mattresses. The furniture arrived three weeks later. This was their home until November when they had a lumber house with an upstairs and a lean-to kitchen completed. This home by the side of a Grand Trunk Trail provided many meals and lodging for weary travellers. The door was never locked and many times the remains of a meal was all that showed where someone had helped themselves during the family's absence. Nothing was ever taken.

That winter an extra set of harness was traded to Mike Rubenok for a cow. The Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad (later the C.N.R.) built from the east, had now reached the Battle River where a big bridge had to be built, so a camp was established with a store, cookhouse etc. Many settlers found employment here. James worked by



Eldon and Isabell Fenton in 1981. Eldon is the oldest living old-timer in the district, having come here in 1907.

freighting their supplies from Hardisty until the railroad was well past the homestead.

A third daughter, Georgina, was born in the spring of 1908, the first girl baby born in the Irma district. Dr. Steele from the Battle River R.R. camp was present, also a trained nurse Pansy Purves who lived in the Strawberry Plains district.

One spring morning James and Bessie drove their team and democrat to Wainwright for groceries, fording the Battle River. They were accompanied by Ed Armstrong and Jim McKnight. When they returned to the river in the afternoon it was in full flood. The high R.R. Bridge was partly built so the six sacks of flour and other supplies with James Fenton, were swung across on the crane. Bessie with Jim McKnight walked the bridge and were lowered to the ground. Ed Armstrong, with the empty democrat and team swam the river. All arrived safely.

The children first went to school at Strawberry Plains School as did the Irma children, but in 1909 Sunny Brae School was built by John Campbell, Mr. Westbrook and Jack Gillis, and opened with Miss Millburn as teacher. After a couple of years the school was closed until 1914 because the large Westbrook family moved back to Texas. The children now went to a school opened in the basement of the Church in Irma in 1912.

The year 1911 brought trouble. James suffered a heart attack from which he never altogether recovered, although he spent thirteen weeks in bed and the Doctor did not allow him outside the house for a year. Dr. McGregor was the attending physician. He did not have his license to practise at first. However, when Dr. Little

sued him successfully, the men of the area paid the fine so he could become the Irma Doctor. This illness placed a heavy burden on Bessie and the older children, especially Eldon, who at the age of thirteen had to be man of the family. The farm expanded to three quarters with the addition of the N.E. 19-45-8-W4th, but was always a mixed farm operation with milk cows and pigs as well as grain. For many years up to twenty-one cows were milked by hand.

One of the most feared happenings was a prairie fire. The railroad track was one half mile at the closest and the steam engines with flying sparks were always dangerous. Fire could travel far and fast through the long prairie wool. Smoke was seen one Sunday morning and Eldon rode out to see. A fire had jumped the Battle River and was advancing straight for the homestead. Eldon hitched a team to a sulky plow and started two furrows from the trail south, while Inez and Gordon started backfires along it. Just as the fire reached Eldon, he hit a large stone and the doubletree broke. The fire went right over him. Fortunately the fire missed the farm and burnt out in the wet coulee. Another spur of the same fire had turned north but the neighbors Smarts, Sellars, etc. battled it out.

Stuart, a son was born in 1914 and Rena, a daughter in 1917, making the seven children. Many happy evenings were spent in singing around the old pump organ, with Inez or Georgina playing, James and Eldon base, May alto, Gordon tenor and the rest soprano. There was a harmonious time.

The telephone, installed in 1914, with the line being fences, was the means of broadcasting this singing. James would phone Fred Higginson and with extra earphones, this family as well as some on the party line would listen. James, Eldon, May, Inez, Gordon, Georgina and Rena all sang for years at a time in the Methodist (later United) Church Choir.

A wicked storm in 1919 levelled the framework of the new house James and the boys were building and moved the old one, so all took refuge in the sod barn. Inez, who had ridden for the milk cows down Gratton Coulee had the herd and horse refuse to face the hailstorm. She took off the saddle and used the blanket for cover. She crawled along the railroad tracks until she came to the path leading up over the hills to home. Eldon, who started out to find her, passed her in the blackness. A flash of lightning showed Eldon the dog and Inez heard him call.

The house was rebuilt. Other barns and houses in the district showed James's and sons' handwork as carpenters; one being the house now occupied by Ross and Ethel McFarland. James and Bessie Fenton made their biggest contribution in service to the church although he was interested and took part in all worthwhile community activities. They were instrumental in helping to get the first church, the Methodist later to become the United, started. He was on the Board of Stewards and it was his design that was chosen for the building. He was Superintendent of the Sunday School at Sunny Brae Charge for many years as well as Steward and Elder of the Irma Church until his death in 1950. Bessie was always beside him in this work. She was president of the



Golden anniversary of James and Bessie Fenton, December 29th, 1946. Georgina (Enger), May (Carter), Stuart, James and Bessie, Eldon, Rena (Schelke), Inez (Dunlop), Gordon.

Ladies Aid for nine years during the hungry thirties and was presented with a Life Membership by them.

One of their most pleasing times for James and Bessie Fenton was the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary on December 29th. It was fifty degrees below zero Fahrenheit. After the family gathering at their home, thirty-one members of the family attended Irma United Church that evening. A quartet of May, Inez, Rena and Gordon and a selection by the grandchildren Joy, Arnold and Mavis, accompanied by Georgina, were part of the service.

Of the seven of a family, three have held office provincially. May was Grand Mistress of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge L.O.B.A. of Alberta, Stuart was President of the Alberta Hereford Association and Georgina was President of Alberta Conference Women's Association of the United Church 1957-1959. The others have all held offices and worked in their local churches and communities. Most of their stories will be recorded elsewhere. Inez trained for a nurse at Lamont Hospital where she graduated in 1927. Her marriage to Ralph Dunlop, a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture graduate, necessitated their home be in Indian Head, Saskatchewan. The many fine shelter belts and tree plantings throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan testify to Ralph's life's work as well as the invention of the tree planting machine. Two children, Orville and wife Mary own and operate a long distance trucking firm in Saskatoon. Mavis with her three sons and one daughter live in Regina, Sask.

Gordon married a neighbor girl Myrtle Fitzpatrick and one daughter and three sons were born before they left their farm the N.W. 21-45-8-W4th, to make their home in Edmonton. Gordon operated a long distance truck hauling business until his health failed. For many years he drove a transit bus for workers to the Oil Refinery.

Reta and husband with one son and three daughters, make Edmonton their home.

Valda and wife Pat with four children, live on a farm at Barrhead, although Valda is an Edmonton fireman.

Ronald and wife Carol with four children live in Sherwood Park. Ron is a top executive in the Accountancy Dept. of Glenrose Hospital.

Leonard has made his mark in refrigeration work in Kamloops where he lives with his wife Cindy and two children. Gordon met his second wife Maude while singing in the Lion's Club Chorus for Seniors. She makes her home in Edmonton since Gordon's death in 1976.

Rena, the youngest, is now married to Carl Schelkie, a farmer near Red Deer, and a strong Hereford man. Rena for many years lived in Regina with her husband Barney Chesters and daughter Nancy, and son Bevin. She operated her own catering business there. Barney died in 1967.

James was always interested in poetry. Only once did he try to have any of his poems published and two were accepted for "Alberta Poetry Book of the Year" in 1950, the year of his death. A reprint of one was found in a book in the U.S. Bessie passed away in 1959, the day before Christmas.

HEARTS

by James Fenton

*If you possess a merry heart, that cheerfulness displays
It doeth good like medicine, the scripture plainly says.*

Prov. 17:29

If you possess a loving heart and wish to spread its rays

Just love your neighbor as yourself, the scripture plainly says.

John 15:12

*If you possess a humble heart devoid of selfish praise
This heart will never be despised, the scripture plainly says.*

Ps. 51:17

*If you possess a pure heart that righteousness conveys,
You shall see God in everything, the scripture plainly says.*

Math. 5:8

*If you possess a willing heart and His command obeys
Go therefore and all nations teach, the scripture plainly says.*

Mark 16:15

*If you possess a doubting heart that happiness delays
Trust Jesus casting out your fear, the scripture plainly says.*

Luke 24:38

If you possess a sinful heart and want to mend your ways,

Just have it cleansed in Jesus' blood, the scripture plainly says.

I John 1:7

STUART AND DORIS FENTON

by Doris Fenton

Stuart Fenton was born on his father's homestead S.W. 20-45-8-W4th east of Irma. He attended Sunnybrae School located on the southwest corner of 29-45-8-W4th now the John Newton farm. Families in the district with school age children at that time were: Bacon, Hubman, Knowles, Miles, Sanders. Stuart rode horseback to high school in Irma and drove a cutter or buggy when his sister Rena and Kathleen Knowles were going. In winter the trip home through town was made hazardous by road hockey games (played with tin cans or frozen horse manure), and kids with sleds trying to hook rides behind passing rigs.

I went to Battle Heights school north of Fabyan, finished high school at Wainwright and Vermilion and took teacher training at Camrose Normal School (now Rosehaven Hospital). I taught for nine years at Mascot (north of Wainwright), Battle Heights, Metropolitan, Paradise Valley and Passchendale. At most of these schools I rode horseback up to four miles to work each day and home on weekends fifteen miles or more.

Stuart and I were married in July, 1941. We were both from homesteader families and were the first generation of settlers to be born and grow up in this area. Though our homes were only twelve miles apart we did not meet until we were twenty-one. Our combined assets at the time of our marriage were two saddle horses and seventy



Stuart and Doris Fenton celebrated their Fortieth Anniversary on July 4, 1981. Jay, Barb, Stuart, Doris, Al, Carl. Missing Henry in the hospital.

dollars.

Our first venture together was putting up hay on the Ribstone meadow southeast of Wainwright. The summer of 1941 was so dry and hot that greenfeed planted in June did not germinate until rain came at harvesttime. The buffalo at Wainwright had been slaughtered or shipped from the park the winter of 1939 so the hay on the park farm was offered to local farmers by permit. Stuart paid the required one dollar. With a Bennett buggy and six horses we drove the thirty-four miles to arrive at the meadow in time to tie the horses in the brush and put up a tent before a hail storm struck. The tent was a tarp draped over a pole between two trees with a horsehide covering one end and a horse blanket the other. Hay taken from a nearby stack made a bed on the ground. None of it was too dry by the time the storm passed. For two weeks wasps shared every meal and frogs and mice kept us company at night.

Martin and Georgina Enger brought the mower, rake and buckrake in their truck. The hay, four feet tall, was difficult to handle with our equipment. Martin, who topped the stack said it didn't matter where you stood you were standing on all of it. This proved to be an advantage when it was hauled. The load was built continuously from the truck right back onto a rack on a two-wheeled trailer behind. It bent going around corners without losing any.

The Fentons had always milked cows but in the late thirties and early forties cream was only about a dollar and a quarter for a five gallon can. Because of his admiration for Art Long's fine herd of commercial Herefords, Stuart decided he would raise beef cattle. He bought a bunch of pail-fed calves from neighbors at eighteen to twenty dollars each and a grade bull calf from Art Long for fifty dollars, the price of one wagon load of wheat. Next spring he rented pasture from Martin Enger in the river valley. Moving that small bunch of barnyard raised cattle to the new pasture was a major operation. Some were back home almost as soon as the riders. One took a shortcut on the C.N. right-of-way and was killed by a train. From such unpromising beginnings the herd grew becoming more manageable and range broke so



Henry Fenton parades the Grand Champion Hereford Bull in front of the rodeo crowd in the Edmonton Gardens in 1969.

when each spring the gates were opened they were glad to go to the river without any trouble.

One fall my mother noticing my shabby wardrobe, thought I should have a new coat. I told her I had three new coats and showed her three new heifers looking good in their winter fur. They were our first registered Herefords bought from a neighbor, Art Blakely. This was the beginning of another joint project for Stuart and me.

We became so involved in our own operation we had little time for community affairs. However Stuart helped start the Wainwright 4-H Beef Club and later the Irma Beef Club acting as its senior leader for thirteen years. With the senior committee of the Wainwright club he organized the first beef barbecue in the area at Clear Lake. Since then barbecues have become regular events at Irma and Stuart has barbecued many places in Alberta for fund raising affairs, homecomings, weddings, political rallies and World Hereford Conference.

After the war there was a building boom in Wainwright and the Army Camp so Stuart bought a truck and sold gravel for several years. At first he loaded with three horses and a frezno, pulling it up over a bridge covered with a grating and dumping it through into the truck below. Later he used a cat with an overhead bucket. In winter Ed Sharkey would help loosen the frozen gravel with dynamite. Stuart was intrigued with Ed's method of clamping the caps on the fuse with his teeth. When gravel from a hill near the highway was removed a spring was found in the bottom. With the coming of drier years the water has almost gone.

Stuart was a charter member of the Northern Alberta Hereford Club, served as a director of the Alberta Hereford Association for eighteen years and also on the Canadian Hereford Association board. He helped organize the Junior Hereford Association in Alberta, the first in Canada, now spread Canada wide. Stuart and I both judged cattle at sales, fairs and 4-H shows. I was the first woman to judge a major show in Canada.

My bit for the community was conducting swimming classes for the Irma area sponsored by the Home and School Association. As Area Representative for Alberta

Red Cross I examined swimmers in northeast Central Alberta. The Irma program started at Lake Delusion on the Paszor farm, was continued by Ruby Prior at Amblers Lake and the Kinsella gravel pit. Marjorie Taylor and later her younger sisters also taught swimming at the pool on their father's farm. The Jack Taylor family are very generous in sharing their facility with the community.

As our farm increased in size, so did our family until there were five. Stuart's parents retired to Wainwright in 1950 and we moved from our small shack into their house. I found it hard to keep track of the smaller kids in a bigger place. They all ran away as soon as they were let outside, to the barn, to Auntie's house, to the gravel pit, to the silage pit, to the coulee. They were a healthy bunch, enjoyed sports and helped with the farm work. They're all grown now and we have ten grandchildren. Carl, wife Lynn and son Jim live in St. Albert. He is an electrician. Barb, husband Bernie with Jeff, John, Mary Jo and twins, Bobby Jean and Betty Rae live near Oliver, B.C. and raise cattle in the mountains and irrigated hay in the Okanagan Valley. Henry, wife Judy, Gordon, Jody and Jennifer are on the Eddy Jackson farm which they have added to the Jim Jackson place south of Irma. Jay lives on our homeplace and Al, Lori and son, Conrad on the Martin Enger farm also twins Becky Lynn and Blair.

In 1979 we added a pasture on the Milk River. Stuart now spends most of his time there where he keeps a herd of commercial cows and a small band of Belgian brood mares. Our fellow Hereford breeders honored us jointly in 1980 for our contribution to the industry when our names were added to the Canadian Hereford Honor Roll. Although we have been Senior Citizens for quite a while now we haven't found time to retire.

JAYSON FERGUSON

Jayson was born in Minburn and lived on a farm north of Minburn and Innisfree. His mother, having been a teacher taught the family at home.

Jean Cropley was born in Edmonton, but spent her early life around Minburn. She attended Lake Gilray (country school) and Mannville High School.

Jayson and Jean were married in 1956 and to this union four children, Phyllis, Clarence, David and Dixie, were born. The children took their early schooling of Albert and finished at Irma.

In 1963 they moved to the Albert district where they rented the Barss homestead - one mile west of Albert school. They lived on the Barss place until 1969 when they purchased the Sherry farm which was originally the John Fleming homestead. In June, 1973 they bought the old Keith Currie house and moved it to their new farmsite S.E. 3-47-9-W4th. This is across the road north of the old Barss homestead buildings. They have a small farming operation and Jayson keeps busy trucking.

Jean and Jayson belong to the Albert Community Association and Jean belongs to the Buffalo Coulee W.I. They enjoy their associations with their neighbors.

Phyllis is married and lives in Prince Rupert. Her

husband, Frank Bortignon, is the head baker for Safeway there. They have a daughter.

Clarence is not married. He lives in Ottawa where he installs furnaces.

David, unmarried, lives in Wainwright where he is a heavy duty mechanic with John Deere.

Dixie married Leonard Savage and they make their home in Wainwright.



Dorlas and Newell Figenshau family, Ellsworth, Ida Owen and Clark about 1935.

NEWEL FIGENSHAU FAMILY

by Clark Figenshau

Newel Figenshau was born on August 24, 1887 at Grand Forks, North Dakota. In 1911 he came to Saskatchewan where he homesteaded.

He came to the Irma district in the 1920's. In 1926 he married Dorlas Goodale and to this union were born four children: Clark, Ellsworth, Harry and Ida Queen. Dad farmed the Johnson place north of Irma until about 1932 but a heavy frost that year took most of the profits. Among our acquaintances at that time were Sally Tarin and two colored gentlemen, Zack and Bud Risbee, who helped at the farm. They were very musical and sang and played the guitar at the country dances. One song that comes to mind was "I'll give you pork and kisses if you will be my misses". Their music was extremely popular.

Dad was plagued with ill health much of his life and passed away in 1936. Mother passed away in 1945.

I (Clark) was born in Irma in 1927. Much of my early life was spent in foster homes and I received my education in many different places. When I was old enough I worked as a farm laborer and later I obtained a position in the Solicitor General's department as a driver examiner. In 1949 I married Christina Borth from Calgary. We have two children and one grandchild. We are presently living in Lethbridge and are semi-retired.

Ellsworth left Irma in 1940 and also lived in foster homes. For a while he worked as a milk man in Kimberly, British Columbia. After a career in the armed forces he operated a drive-in restaurant at Chase, British Columbia. Following this he spent some time in construction and is presently engaged in small engine mechanics in Kamloops, British Columbia.

Harry left Irma about 1949. After a short stint as a milk man he joined the Air Force in 1953. He rose to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer first class in Edmonton, Alberta and Trenton, Ontario and is now stationed at C.F.B. Winnipeg. In 1982 he received the Medal of Military Merit from Governor General Schreyer in Ottawa for a distinguished military career and outstanding community service.

Ida Queen was adopted by a Mounted Police officer by the name of Collette in Wainwright. Shortly after, the Collette family moved to Lacombe. Her adopted name became Elizabeth Collette. She studied and became a psychiatrist. Her married name is Schwab and is known as Dr. Elizabeth Schwab M.D. P.H.D. and is practising psychiatry in Edmonton.

EMANUEL FIGUR FAMILY

by Elfrieda Westover

The Figur family arrived in the Irma district in 1931 and settled on a farm nine miles north of town.

Emanuel Figur and Emilie Weiss were married January 22nd, 1915 at Morden, Manitoba, where they made their home on a farm for a number of years.

In 1927 they moved to Alberta and undertook different types of work, but with six children they decided that the farm was a better place for a family and chose Irma as our new home. We weren't long getting settled and were soon enjoying the friendly neighbors who came to visit. The children attended Ross school and soon we were part of the community.

In the spring of 1932 we had prepared for seeding to begin when on April 10th, we woke up to find the granary with the seed grain, the barn and the attached chicken house all set on fire. We weren't alone, as we soon heard that our neighbors Jonathan and Olga Schlender had their buildings destroyed as well. However, in a short time many wonderful neighbors responded by offering help in the way of giving us harness and seed that they could spare. In spite of the hardship we were able to seed our crop which yielded well. It also made us very much aware that the people were not just neighbors but friends in need "Who are friends indeed!" This still holds special memories to all our family.

The summer of 1932 continued to be rather a different time in our lives with becoming well acquainted with several members of the R.C.M.P. who spent much time with us, since the culprits took to cutting fences and burning vacant buildings. But by fall things were getting back to normal. All went well from then on but the prices had dropped and everyone felt it.

In 1935 our family decided to move where we would be closer to town, church and school. We moved to Minburn and later settled at Innisfree until our parents' retirement when they returned to Morden. Later they moved to Edmonton where Emanuel died in 1956 and Emilie in 1971. In all the Figurs had nine children: Berthold, Elona (Mrs. Glenn Pettigrew), William married Bernadine Woody, Bertha (Mrs. George Anderson), Elfrieda (Mrs. Arthur Westover), Emma (Mrs. William Baumgart), Erne (Mrs. Bernt Andersson), Theodora 1923-1927 and Edwin, three months, 1926.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Firkus, Senior.

ALBERT FIRKUS

Albert Firkus Senior came from Hibbing, Minnesota to Alberta to homestead. His wife and three children Ray, Ambrose and Alice followed in 1906. Their first home was a sod house with a kitchen, living room and two bedrooms. It had a dirt floor and the ceiling was just poles with a sod top. Tar paper was nailed across the ceiling to keep the dirt from falling. When it rained the tar paper held about a bucket of water until it broke to spread muddy water all over.

Albert went to Sedgewick each fall to get enough food supplies, flour, sugar, beans, oatmeal and dried fruit to last all winter. By spring it seemed only the oatmeal held out so it became a staple diet. As there were plenty of wild rabbits, ducks and geese, one never went hungry.

Without a well, water for household needs was a problem. Several barrels were put on a wagon pulled by oxen to the nearest spring. When it rained the water was strained to clear it of bugs before it was used for cooking.

Groners were our nearest neighbors and we always went to Mrs. Groner for help when someone was sick. She knew what plants were good for what ailed you. At that time there was no doctor, school or church in the district.

Many different nationalities made up the district. We were the only Polish family that lived there. Everyone was friendly - even the Indians who passed by. They would ask for hides, heads and insides of an animal we butchered.

Albert raised many horses which he branded A/F. Breaking those wild horses was quite a fete. Sometimes we'd hitch a partially broken horse with a quiet one to drive.

Getting the mail was a rare occasion. Relatives from

the States sent us comics and what fun we had reading the Katznjammer Kids and Happy Hooligan!

We picked all kinds of wild berries to preserve for winter. Mosquitoes were a trial to contend with. I wonder how Mother did all the washing by hand, cooking, sewing, canning, raising a big garden as well as helping Dad at harvest time.

A big event in our lives was the purchase of a beautiful, black McLaughlin car. Dad entered it in the car races at Jarrow Sports - the object was to see how slow a car could go without stalling.

Other settlers came in. Well remembered is the Lindquist family who liked to dance. Mr. Lindquist played the mouth organ and concertina and we'd dance until morning.

Even though times were hard we have happy memories of the early times in Alberta.



Ambrose Firkus

Alice Firkus

AMBROSE FIRKUS

Ambrose Firkus came to Alberta in 1906 with his parents Albert and Anna Firkus. He farmed with his dad until he married Alice Marshall on March 23, 1923. Alice had lived with her mother on the old Owen homestead. She taught school at Batt and Valley. After their marriage they took over the Firkus homestead when Albert Firkus returned to the States. They had four children Albert, Clifford, Joyce and Keith. In December 1935 Alice passed away.

AMBROSE FIRKUS FAMILY

by Mary Firkus

Ambrose came to Alberta from Hibbing, Minnesota in 1905 with his parents.

Farming, as I remember it in the early years was quite different than now. Ambrose took over the farm when his parents returned to the States in 1922. Things were very hard for most farmers as most had mortgaged their farms to the limit. It was an uphill struggle, the bank got their share every year but the debts increased. Finally, when we got married we decided a decision had to be made. Either continue working for the bank or start afresh. We got together with the bank and drew up a new agreement. The bankers were happy to have us stay on the farm and with the new agreement there was an opportunity to get ahead, with hard work. The first years of our marriage every spare dollar went to the bank to pay for the homeplace.

In 1936 we had a very heavy frost, so most of the crop was used for feed. I remember we had a very large stack on the west side of the barn which was used for feed. When the fat cattle were sold in the spring we got two and one-half cents per pound for them. That same year we took eggs to town and were paid two cents per dozen.

We had a Twin City tractor by then which was out of order more than in use. Finally in 1939 we got the Oliver tractor and in 1941 we got a tiller so farming progressed much better, even though we were now farming more land.

We also had a half share in a horse drawn combine, Ambrose later sold his share to Leonard Owen. During the war years machinery was very hard to get. I remember Ambrose buying a Cockshutt tractor at a sale and paying more than a new one was worth. Threshing time was always a very busy time on the farm. They used to hire men at railway divisional points and when it rained they would be fired as the farmers couldn't afford to keep them. During the war high school boys would come down from the city to help with the harvest. Most of them tried very hard even though they knew nothing about farming.

In 1945 a new combine was purchased which certainly was a turn for the better. After that we only threshed some for feed or for the neighbors who didn't have combines. They supplied their own help.

Things were improving for the farmers. We built a new house and made some improvements on the farm. By this time the boys were growing up which changed our style of farming. We kept more pigs, cattle, etc. Prices for grain had improved so farming was generally more profitable.

Things were still much different than now though. The larger, better farm machinery has made the farm work easier allowing the farmers more leisure time. The better roads kept open in the winter make a big difference. When we were on the farm the cars used to stay in the garage for weeks at a time following a blizzard.

In 1957 we retired to Chilliwack, B.C. Ambrose passed away in 1966. I still reside in Chilliwack.

Ambrose and I were Charter Members of the Elks and Royal Purple Lodges in Kinsella. Sharing many good times in the building of the curling rink and other lodge

activities.

Albert married Donna Coultman and they have five children; Sharon, Neil, Laurel, Kevin and Darin. They now live at Standard.

Clifford married Freda Belton and they have five children; Ken, Doris, Mervin, Renita and Lorne. They live on a farm north of Irma. They have seven grandchildren.

Joyce married Walter Budzinski and they have four children; Brenda, Karen, Gary and Murray. They live at Nanaimo, B.C.

Keith married Vivian Archibald and they have four sons; David, Lyle, Dale and Mark. They own and operate the family farm. They have one grandson.

Ronnie and Joan live in Calgary and have twin girls; Sandi and Susan. Also, they have a son, Darcy.

Gordon and Winn live at Chilliwack. They have three sons; Ray, Lenard and Paul.

CLIFFORD AND FREDA FIRKUS

by Freda Firkus

Cliff was born at the Firkus homestead south of Jarrow, the second eldest son of Ambrose and Alice Firkus. Freda was born in the Viking Hospital, the second youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. W. Belton.

Cliff took his schooling at Metropolitan School. He then farmed with his dad until he married Freda in 1949. They moved to the Carrington farm northeast of Irma, where they farmed until moving to Irma in 1984.

Freda attended school in Jarrow then worked out at various jobs until she married.

They have five children - Doris (Mrs. Ken Ford), Ken, Mervin, Renita and Lorne. Doris and Ken farm northeast of Irma and also rent our land. They have four boys. Ken is in Fort McMurray where he works for the town. Mervin bought our farm acreage and lives there and works for Petro Canada at K.H.O.P. northeast of Irma. Renita works for Northwestern Utilities in Camrose.



The Cliff Firkus Family: Doris, Lorne, Renita, Mervin, Kenny, Cliff and Freda.

Lorne is finishing his schooling in Irma and is an avid sports participant.

In about 1951 Cliff and Mervin Lovig organized the Irma Tigers fastball club and it is still a very active ball club. Cliff has seen a lot of ball players come and go during his last thirty years of playing and coaching.

MR. AND MRS. A.A. FISCHER

by Orril (Fischer) Darling

In the spring of 1908 our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Aubrey Fischer came from Ontario to their homestead, the northwest quarter 12-46-9, northeast of the present village of Irma.

Albert Aubrey Fischer was born in Drayton, Ontario and raised in Berlin, now Kitchener, Ontario. As a young man he had come west to Calgary, Alberta, had visited his older brother, a railroad station agent, in a boxcar station somewhere in unsettled Western Canada. He also went to Edmonton where his sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnstone, were living and then to Manitoba where he worked on farms for a number of years near Hamiota and Dauphin. At one farm he helped haul stones or rocks to build a large stone house. We visited in this house in 1932. He spoke of hauling firewood from the Riding Mountain area, a very long haul with horses in the wintertime.



Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Fischer beside their homestead house - note shingled exterior.

Our mother, Alice Pettigrew, was born and raised near Caistor Centre, Ontario the oldest of a family of eight. Her parents were farmers. Her first venture away from home was to do housework in Buffalo, New York. She worked for a fairly well-to-do family, the husband being a coffee importer. She got the job through Eliza Beatty, a friend from Caistor Centre who was also working in Buffalo. She was working there when President

McKinley was shot in Buffalo, but saw nothing of the incident. Here she learned the care of nice linen especially the ironing of fine linen tablecloths and napkins as well as men's white dress shirts. This accomplishment she never forgot. Later she came to Manitoba to visit relatives who were farmers near Hamiota. It was here that she first experienced western farm harvesting and was initiated into feeding of large crews of steam threshing machines.

She learned sewing or dressmaking while living in Hamiota, for three or four years. She remembers making a cream serge suit for a girl. Mother made clothes later for herself and her family for many years and everything had to be well made.

Our parents met in Manitoba and were married at Caistor Centre, at the Pettigrew home on December 25, 1907. They came west again in 1908, first to Edmonton and in the spring with the Coultmans, the Elliots, Armstrongs and Cliff Toll to their homestead in what is now the Alma Mater District. Our father had previously filed on the homestead. As there was no railroad as far west to where Irma was later located, the group came from Edmonton by train to Mannville and across open country to their homestead sites.

The party had to stay overnight at the hotel in Mannville as the freight cars with their settlers' effects arrived later, in fact early the next morning as the group were getting out of bed. It was cold in the hotel lobby as the travellers were waiting for breakfast. Thinking to hurry a slow fire in the lobby heater a young man working at the hotel poured coal oil on it from a can. An explosion resulted and the fire it caused was spread when the young man, in his fright, threw a pail of water on it. Mother's hair and fur were singed. She finally realized that someone was beating out the fire with a coat that, Mrs. Shaw, a neighbor had sent for her to wear as extra on the long overland trip. Her best hat in a bag or box was either flattened by banging the bag when it caught fire or was found outside later blowing across the street.

The homesteaders left Mannville with their homesteaders' effects in the morning. The household effects were loaded on wagons and Mother found herself perched high on bedsprings on one wagon. The journey of about thirty miles took them across two coulees where there were no regular crossing with only prairie trails to follow. Two teams were always hitched to one wagon at the coulee crossing. After one wagon was across horses and men returned to bring the other wagon or wagons across. That afternoon nearing John Watson's, an early settler's place and a stop-over, our wagon hit a badger hole and stopped and old Fanny, our horse, lay down and refused to pull any further. The team was unhitched and the party walked the rest of the way. Our mother said there was not much left of her nice new button shoes by the time she walked across the prairie to John Watson's and his mother's place.

After staying overnight at Watsons our parents and several others lived for a while in a 14 x 16 shack already built on the homestead cornering our land to the northwest, S.W. 14-46-9. This was Mr. Wilson's place and the shack was there for many years. I don't remember Mr. Wilson but we always called it the Wilson place. Mother often spoke of moving the table out and the bed

in at night and reversing this for the day. Here our parents with six Plymouth Rock hens stayed until summer while lumber was hauled from Mannville and the shell for their homestead house was built. On these trips two teams and wagons always went together. Sod horse barn, cowbarn and henhouse were also built but I don't know which was done first. The trips to Mannville took two days and Mother was alone during this time. After the house shell was up and they were moved in our father and Mr. Watson went to Mannville for supplies as they were out of flour and pig feed. Late in the day black clouds rolled up, wind blew and rain poured. Mother got the cow that was tethered out into the barn and waited out the storm in the house. Meanwhile John Watson and Dad had their wagons loaded, but got their supplies under cover from the storm losing nothing. They stayed at traveller lodgings. When the storm let up some, a knock came to the door. It was Mr. Shaw, a neighbor who had come to tell of Mrs. Watson's death and to borrow the horse and buggy. Mrs. Watson had been sick for some time and the neighbor staying while John was away had walked to Shaw's after the storm eased. Mr. Shaw started toward Mannville with the horse and buggy to meet John Watson and Dad. John Watson took the light rig back to Mannville to make funeral arrangements while Mr. Shaw and Dad brought the loaded wagons home. Mrs. Watson Sr. was buried on the Watson homestead.



Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Fischer, son, George, daughter Orril at the homestead.

Our father had brought to the homestead a buggy and a driving horse. There were few of these in the early days and when quick transportation was needed, the neighbors borrowed Belle and the buggy.

In October of 1908 the Fischer son, George, was born one of the first homestead babies.

In the spring and summer of 1909 our father suffered greatly from sciatica, which re-occurred periodically most of his life. He spent about seven weeks in the hospital in Edmonton after getting the crop in with the help of the neighbors. Mother stayed alone on the

homestead with baby son, George, caring for the place and for what livestock they had. As the railroad had reached Irma by that time the trail from the north and east to it passed by the west side of the house and people passing regularly stopped to offer help and kind neighbors were near. Will Elliott, Adelaide Dootson's father, came one day and chopped wood and did other chores. Late in that afternoon a storm brought much needed rain and that year the crops were good.

Once, while Mother was alone, a number of large steers that were running on the range as was customary and belonging to a neighbor came to the buildings. As yet the farms weren't fenced. The steers got at the haystack at the end of the barn. With a pitchfork she got them started across the open land and chased them some distance. Remembering George alone in an applebox on the floor, she decided she had better go back to the house as these animals could be dangerous. Ironically the steers went to another neighbor's where there was a dog. We had none at that time. He set his dog on them and chased them right back. Eventually kind neighbors put the much needed hay out of reach of the steers.

Prairie fires that travelled quickly through the dry grass were an early menace. Fireguards were usually plowed around the buildings but fires could jump these. One afternoon while still alone in late summer of 1909 our mother noticed smoke at a distance, then fire moving closer and closer from the northwest. She got gunny sacks and water ready to try to fight it. The fire stopped at the trail, now well travelled, and followed it south. As soon as the fire had passed their homes, Mr. Shaw and other neighbors came with pails of water and sacks. Bits of vegetation still held some fire as it passed. The fire fighters checked a mile or so south and some stayed on watch all night. Mother made sandwiches and coffee for them. Such were those concerned, good neighbors of the early times.

In the spring of 1910 the Fischer daughter, Orril, was born. Being a colicky baby she cried her way through much of her first year, not a model baby as her brother had been.

Sleepless nights caring for a colicky baby and keeping up with household chores which included meals for bachelor neighbors and relatives and friends on excursion trips from Ontario took its toll, and in the Spring of 1911 our mother was very sick. Dr. Murray McGregor attended her faithfully and he was credited with saving her life. An excerpt from Mrs. Shaw's 1911 diary reads, "May 18, Mr. Fischer came for me. Mrs. Fischer much worse. Dr. McGregor and Dr. from Wainwright were there until nearly midnight." Neighbor ladies, especially Mrs. Shaw, came willingly to help often staying all night. Mother gradually improved and later her mother, Mrs. Pettigrew, came from Ontario to be with the family for a while.

Our parents worked hard as did other homesteaders contending with prairie fires, drought and frost. As time went on more land was put under cultivation, land fenced and pigs, chickens, cattle, horses and garden were raised. The sod outbuildings were replaced by frame buildings. In 1918 a fairly large hip roofed barn was built by Mr. G.A. Walker who had homesteaded the southeast quarter

of 12-46-9, but was then living and working in Edmonton. Mother was very busy with the usual work, and feeding the building crew. To keep costs down she added home dried apples from Ontario to the raisins in raisin pies. This quite disgusted Inez Leemaster, a young woman who was helping Mother and she called them the trash pies which rather amused Mother. Mother washed clothes on a washboard, baked with a wood and coal heated, secondhand stove. She sewed our clothes on a treadle machine, the only one she ever had and the one I now use. She helped milk cows, made many pounds of butter for sale, picked and canned many quarts of saskatoon berries, and made wild pincherry jelly all done with no modern conveniences.

The first crops were cut by binder, the bundles stooked and then stacked in round peaked stacks to await the few available threshing machines. The neighbors helped each other in all the farm work. Horse power was used and at first most homesteaders owned but one team. These teams were doubled up for heavier work. Many drove teams of oxen. The Shaws, Watsons, Angus MacMillan and Fischers worked together a great deal. From Mrs. Shaw's 1911 diary, "May 9th, 1911. Tom and Angus commenced plowing to-day west of turkey barn. August 8th, 1911. Tom and Fischer drawing hay here. September 25th, 1911. Tom and Mr. Johnston at Fischer's digging potatoes."

For 36 years our parents lived on their homestead in the original house that had been added to, shingled on the outside and later stuccoed and still occupied by the present farm owners, Bill and Julie Dunbar. Many changes took place during those years. Farms were fenced, more land was put under cultivation, roads built and improved and schools built. Our father and Ken Carter went to Sedgewick to get the first municipal district formed in our area I am told. In 1929 our parents bought their first and only car a 1939 green Chevrolet.

Their home was ever open to friends, neighbors and passing strangers all of whom were invited to share a meal. Mother cooked many meals for bachelor neighbors and young men coming from Eastern Canada seeking adventure.

She was an active member of the first Methodist and then United Church and women's church groups. She was a charter member of the Irma Women's Institute and was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. She always went places independently with horse and buggy, taking cream to town and doing farm errands. She even mastered driving the car.

Our father was a rural municipal councillor for many years, a first member of the Alma Mater School Board and of the Irma Rural High School Board as well as belonging to the early Irma Agricultural Society. In 1944 our parents retired from the farm and took up residence in Irma. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1957 with their family on Christmas Day and later in the week with open house for friends and neighbors. Dad passed away May 10th, 1959 in his 85th year and was laid to rest in the Irma Cemetery.

Mother continued active in community and church affairs after coming to live in Irma. In September of 1966 she gave up her home and went to live at Vialta Lodge,

Viking, where she made her home until January 1975. She continued to be keenly interested in her family, friends, and the activities of the Irma area. She made three airplane trips to Ontario after she was 80 years old, two of them alone and the last one accompanied by her daughter. On the first flight she had to change planes at Winnipeg. She passed away in her 97th year and was laid to rest beside her husband in the Irma Cemetery.



A.A. Fischer and only great-grandchild Sharon Harrison.



Don Fischer Family: Kurt, Kyla, Dixie, Karen, Kelly, Kerri, and Don.

DON FISCHER FAMILY

by Don Fischer

Donald George Fischer was born on Easter Sunday, April 12th, 1936 on his grandfather's farm at Irma, Alberta. He was a tiny baby only weighing four pounds at the time of birth. He was born in the middle of a horrible Alberta blizzard about six weeks ahead of schedule. To this day no one knows how he survived - premature, underweight and with no medical attention, but he did somehow. With the help of his Aunt Queen who brought this newly discovered baby food called Pablum from Edmonton, he put on the pounds quickly and soon reached normal weight.

He lived his first eighteen years on a farm, attending public school in a nine grade country schoolhouse, the very one his father had attended some thirty years previously. It was called Education Point. The teachers were a hardy lot, only the fittest surviving the tough conditions of country life. The schoolhouse was cold and miserable in wintertime, but it served the purpose nevertheless. Many a student got his education there (sometimes out behind the barn).

After nine years of public school Don went to high school in the village of Irma. After graduating from high school and a six week stay at the University of Alberta he got a job with a blueprinting firm driving a delivery truck in Edmonton. Finding his way around the city proved almost disastrous the first few weeks, it wasn't at all like he expected - like finding one's way around the farm and Irma. With a little luck, however, and a few harrowing experiences he managed. He continued in this job for about three months before joining the Canadian Air Force in 1955.

After training as a jet pilot Don was transferred overseas to Baden Baden, Germany as part of Canada's contribution to NATO. He was twenty years old when he arrived in Germany. While there he met many a nice "fraulein", the most notable, I suppose, being Miss Denmark during the Miss Europe contest in 1958. For a short while thereafter a Canadian Forces Sabre jet could be seen flying into Copenhagen on weekend training flights.

Another highlight was meeting Prince Phillip, even if it was only for a handshake. By a stroke of luck, Don, along with four other pilots were "on alert" with the aircraft ready at the end of the runway when the Prince came in for a visit with his relatives in southern Germany. He seemed like a very nice chap, as the British would say.

Semi-annual, two-week trips were made to Sardinia, Italy, for air-to-air gunnery practice - so that we could warm up our six unused fifty calibre machine guns mounted on the aircraft. This was fun once you got the hang of it, trying to hit a target, a six by thirty-six foot flag towed by another aircraft using a thousand foot cable moving at about three hundred and fifty miles per hour while strapped to an aircraft travelling at four hundred miles per hour. It's a bit like herding cows on horseback, twisting and turning, only slightly faster as the aircraft continues to accelerate up to about four hundred miles per hour as you squeeze the trigger slowly.

Then there were the weekend training flights to Paris, London, Copenhagen or Glasgow, leaving Friday afternoon and returning Monday morning, and getting paid for it too. On more than one occasion he had the pleasure of visiting the Ted Ortons, a well-known family in the eastern Irma district a few years back. It was a tough life!

Things were not always rosey though. During the three and one-half years stay one pilot was killed every six months as a result of aircraft and car crashes. I never could get used to funerals. I think the Irish have the right idea, a "wake". It eases the pain, at least for awhile.

Don was in Germany for three and one-half years before returning to the University of Alberta in 1960 where he studied for seven years achieving his Doctorate degree in Psychology. Going back to school after being

out for five years was tough, those first eight months were probably the most frustrating of his entire life, even to this day. While attending University in Edmonton, Don joined the R.C.A.F. 418 Reserve Squadron and was a member from 1962 to 1967 when he graduated from University. In the Reserve he flew Otters (a nine passenger, single engine bush plane) and C-45S (a twin engine, five passenger transport aircraft). What a change after flying jets for five years! It felt like we were crawling along at a snail's pace. In the Otter especially when cars passed us at times of high headwinds (the Otter cruised at one hundred and fifteen miles per hour at the best of times).

We spent many an hour flying army personnel from Edmonton to the Wainwright Army Camp and during stampede week from Wainwright to Calgary. On one occasion we transported an army General in charge of Western Command from Edmonton to Wainwright and had to make a return flight to get his favorite brandy which he had forgotten. On another occasion while on a training flight in the Wainwright area with the Otter aircraft the engine quit (threw a rod or something) - which is always a bit scary. Fortunately we were within gliding distance of one of the grass landing strips in the army camp and made it without further trouble. Unfortunately we were a few miles from anywhere and had to use our feet to get there - something we weren't used to doing. But as luck would have it, after about five minutes of walking, along came a truck. We were given a ride to the main army camp and there we contacted Edmonton maintenance for help.

To further supplement his income during his university years he flew "water-bombers" in Northern Alberta and British Columbia to fight forest fires. The job was anything but pleasant but the pay was good.

In 1960, while at University, Don met Dixie Schreyer. Two years later they were married.

After graduating in 1967 he and his family, Dixie, Kelly and Kurt moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan so that Don could take a position in the Psychology Department at the University of Saskatchewan, where they have been ever since. During the time in Saskatoon the Fischer family increased to a total of seven, Don and Dixie, Kelly, Kurt, Karin, Kerri and Kyla, four girls and one boy. They are almost grown up now. Kelly is at University taking second year Engineering, Kurt is in his first year at Kelsey taking welding, Karin is in grade eleven, Kerri grade nine and Kyla is in grade seven. What they will all do in later life is anybody's guess with the rapidly changing technology today. One only hopes that they will be healthy, happy and that there will be jobs for them. No longer can they go out and pitch bundles like their father used to do, back home on the farm.

All of the family is involved in music in some way. Kurt plays the guitar, Kerri the French horn and Kyla the oboe (heaven forbid - even the cat has trouble stifling it). Kerri, Karin and Kelly play the piano along with percussion instruments (you should hear the noise around here). Kelly teaches piano to beginners on Saturdays and Mondays. To maintain his sanity father manages to slip away to his office at the university to get some work done during these periods.

Kelly and Karin have also been active in highland dancing over the past years, both having won the Saskatchewan championship at one point in their career.

Dixie is busy at home sewing (her favorite hobby) and trying to balance the budget. How are we supposed to be able to do it if the government can't? Don teaches psychology to graduate and undergraduate students and is conducting research for the Federal Government into the effectiveness of delinquency diversion programs in reducing criminal behavior. As well he still plays hockey (old-timers) and squash to keep fit. Dixie enjoys running, as a fitness activity. She and her neighbor keep a regular schedule, come rain, snow or shine almost all year long. The Fischers love to downhill ski. If only we had mountains in Saskatchewan!

GEORGE BERTRAM FISCHER

George B. Fischer was born in Drayton, Ontario in 1868, the second son and fourth child of the family. Later the family moved to Kitchener, then Berlin, Ontario. Here he received most of his education and as a young man worked in an upholstery factory there. In 1903 he was married to Ida Kolb. Both were musical and both sang in the Berlin Methodist Church Choir. To this marriage one daughter, Madaleine, was born.

A few years later his wife died and with his small daughter he came to Western Canada. Having no settled home at first George Fischer took his daughter to Bellingham, Washington to stay with his older brother and his family. A short while later he brought her to Irma to live with the Johnstones, sister and brother-in-law of her father. Here, when she was school age, she attended Education Point School and when old enough helped milk cows and do general farm chores. During this time her aunt, having learned music, taught her to play the organ and being musically inclined she was very adept at chording to almost any musical composition.

Meanwhile her father, George Fischer, had acquired a farm in the Looma District south of Cooking Lake. While living there alone he quite regularly came to Irma to spend Christmas with the Johnstones and Aubrey Fischers.

When Madaleine was about thirteen years old she went to Looma to keep house for her father. Here they both worked hard milking cows, raising a garden and clearing land to wrest a living from the not too productive soil of that area. While at Looma they occasionally drove to Edmonton with horses to sell farm produce and buy supplies.

About 1925 and some years after Frank Johnstone had passed away George Fischer with Madaleine moved to Irma renting and living on the Johnstone farm for a few years. Here, too, they milked cows and shipped cream as many other farmers did.

George B. Fischer then acquired a quarter section of land owned by his older brother Will Fischer and homesteaded by Dick Atchison in early years. This was S.E. 46-8 which G. Fischer also farmed while still living on the Johnstone place.

About this time Madaleine decided to go to Ontario to her mother's people who lived near Windsor. In time she

married and had one son Donald George Clark who passed away some years ago. She is still living in Windsor.

In the meantime George Fischer built a small house on his farm where he bached and continued to farm for many years. Several summers his younger brother, Charles Fischer, a retired widower came from Sarnia and spent many weeks of the summer with him.

George Fischer loved music and spent many happy hours playing the autoharp often accompanied by Marjorie Fischer on the piano at the Aubrey Fischer home. Here he always spent Christmas and many other times through the years. He passed away in 1944 at the age of 76 years and was laid to rest in the Irma Cemetery.

GEORGE AND MARJORIE FISCHER

by Marjorie Fischer

George Fischer, born in Edmonton in 1908, was brought to live on his parents' homestead on N.W. 12-46-9-W4th in what later became the Alma Mater district. There, he and his sister Orril grew up together. At age seven he was sent to live with his Aunt Addie and Uncle Frank Johnston for two years to attend school at Education Point. His first teacher was Mr. Costain, a man of strict discipline and a firm believer in the use of the cane, which he invariably carried with him and used without hesitation. He probably was justified, for his pupils included several rather unruly youths of a goodly age and a well built stature. George next rode horseback five miles into Irma to school until Alma Mater was built, and there he finished his elementary education. For the next three years he attended High School in Irma and then came home to farm with his dad. He attended Vermilion Agricultural College in 1930 to '32. He bought a quarter section of land N.E. 11-46-9-W4th which became the nucleus of his farming career.

During those years in his spare time, George played a great deal of baseball and hockey. He played on the Irma hockey team in the Gas Line League which included Tofield, Holden, Viking and Irma. Mr. Hedley was the coach and among the other players were Francis Lukens, Bob and Frank McGuire, Arnold Lawson, Scotty Morrison, Dick Yoeman, Ed Sharkey, Ray Martin and Earl Hendricks. They won the cup many times and had numerous enthusiastic fans. In summertime he played baseball with the Irma team mostly in tournaments as the team was not in a league at that time. Years later he coached the junior team when his sons were old enough to play. He coached girls' softball and still later he graduated to the doubtful position of umpire.

In 1934 George married Marjorie Dutton who was teaching in the Alma Mater School. Marje was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta and lived most of her early life in Edmonton, along with an older sister and brother. She received her education there and came to teach in the Alma Mater School in 1930. Her sister Queenie had taught the Alma Mater School in 1927-29. Marje boarded at the Goodale home until the Goodale family moved to Ontario and then at the Fischer home. She taught for a short while as well at Battle Heights until she and George were married.



George Fischer Family in 1947. George and Gordie, Ken, Bob, Marjorie, and Don, Carol and Alice.

George and Marje continued to live at the Fischer farm where their first two sons Ken and Don were born. Later they rented Section 5-46-8-W4th (the old Love farm) where they lived for two years. Bob (Butch) was born there. They next moved to the Williamson place - S.E. 18-46-8-W4th. They were still farming with horses then but tractors were beginning to come into more common use. They raised cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys and one guinea hen - the boss of the farmyard. Alice and Carol were born while they lived there.

In 1943 they rented the Colin McLean farm on S.W. 32-46-8-W4th where they purchased their first tractor - an Oliver 80. They were farming on a much larger scale then as it included all the land they had been farming as well as the McLean farm. In 1942, '43 and '44 the crops were good. In 1944 harvesttime was very wet and the crops had to remain in the stooks all winter to be threshed in the spring. These were war years and extra help was scarce. Men came from Eastern Canada on excursions to help with the harvest. Most of the crops at that time were stooked and threshed, both operations requiring extra men. Feeding men at harvesttime was no small chore, lasting a month or more depending on the weather.

In 1946 Gordie was born - last but not least. The other children attended school at Education Point with Miss Cockroft (Jean Larson) as their teacher for several years. Horseback was their means of transportation, picking up Harry Figenshau on the way. Three horses and six willing riders were a perfect setting for a speedy journey and although the children were warned every morning not to go too fast, they took off like a streak of lightning. No wonder mothers go gray!

During these years the children took piano lessons from the Sisters at the Convent in Wainwright. Five children practising their music every day sometimes presented a few problems. (Gordie wasn't old enough for lessons). The boys played a good deal of hockey and ball. There used to be ball tournaments for school age children at the Sports Days. These games were keenly contested and provided much enjoyment for children and parents alike.

The children attended Sunday School, C.G.I.T. and Hi-C youth groups of the United Church in Irma. Thus, along with hockey, ball and music, began numerous treks into town (a distance of ten miles) and elsewhere. George and Marje curled twice a week in the wintertime which also put a few extra miles on the speedometer. These were busy years but happy ones.

Farming progressed and over the years George and Marje purchased N.W. 29-46-8-W4th which several years later they sold to Bill Inkin, and N.W. 20-46-8-W4th later sold to Clifford Firkus and "eleven" was sold to Les Robertson.

After the war there became an acute shortage of teachers. Schools without teachers were assigned high school students to supervise correspondence lessons for the public school pupils. Such was the case at Education Point. However Alma Mater and Avonglen had teachers and the children were given permission to attend these schools whenever and wherever there was a teacher, which our children did. Louisa Barber (Prosser) and Kate Younker (Green) were their teachers for the next two years. When Gordie was old enough to start school and three of the children were in high school, Marje offered her services as a teacher in 1952. She accepted a position in the Irma School where she continued to teach for the next twenty-two years. They rented a house in town and all attended the Irma School, going back to the farm on weekends. Allan Darling was living with them at the time and he and George bached during the week. They continued this arrangement for awhile but were always so glad to get back to the farm on weekends that they decided to move back home permanently.

On completing high school Don registered at University in Petroleum Engineering but soon sold his books and joined the Air Force - his only interest was in flying. Ken shortly afterwards joined the Navy. Bob, after two or three years with the survey crew for the Department of Highways, came home to farm.

In 1957 the family went to live on the Cliff Smallwood farm S.W. 1-46-9-W4th where they farmed Cliff's land while he attended parliament in Ottawa. Bob and Marian (Smallwood) were married during this time. In the spring of 1962 George and Marje sold the land they had formerly purchased and bought the Rick Larson farm S.E. 28-46-9-W4th seven quarters plus a lease on three quarters of C.P.R. pastureland. They built a house there and moved to their new farm where they have lived for twenty-two years. During 1962 and '63 a period of thirteen months, Carol, Ken, Alice and Don (in that order) were married, an epidemic for sure!

By this time only Gordie was left at home. After finishing high school and one year at Vermilion College, he and George formed a partnership and have farmed

together ever since. Gordie bought a half section of land adjoining our land. In 1971 Gordie and Sherilee Taylor were married and in 1975 George and Gordie bought additional land south of town which also included two leases of pastureland in the Army Camp. During their years of farming together they have built up a sizeable herd of purebred Hereford and commercial cattle because they then were well supplied with pasture and fresh water from the Battle River. Many interesting and enjoyable times the Fischers have spent at the river at cattle roundup time, picnics, fishing, deer hunting, skidooring, and tobogganing. Presently George and Gordie farm both north and south of town and while moving machinery was a problem at first, with foresight and organization it has become quite routine.

Marje retired from teaching in 1974. During her teaching years she attended evening credit courses and summer school from the University of Alberta and obtained her Bachelor of Education degree along with twenty-seven years of teaching experience, twenty-one of which were spent in the Grade One room of the Irma School. She accompanied C.G.I.T. groups at summer camps two years, has been active in the Irma U.C.W. organization for many years as well as the St. Paul Presbyterial U.C.W. and organist for the Irma United Church. Presently George and Marje are assisting in the production of the Irma History book.

Each fall for many years George looked forward to his hunting trips to the bushland north of Hinton. Among the hunters at various times were Mark Russell, Neil MacMillan, Gus Prosser, Pert Prosser, Dave Prior, Gordon Lovig, Bill Burns, Ted Hill, Sonny Patterson, Albert Firkus, Allan Larson, Albert Jones, Hugh Elliott, Eugene Meyer, Clair Lukens and Bill Belton. They loaded up skidoos, a tent, blankets, stove and enough food for ten days. Usually this included one three-ton truck and three or four half tons - they formed quite a caravan. They were in quest mostly of moose and elk. If they were lucky they came home with their quota of meat but at times they came home empty-handed.

George runs a tractor yet at seeding and harvest time and has also become the "summer-fallow man". George and Marje still live on the farm in the home they built twenty-two years ago. They have twenty-three grandchildren.

The children have written their own histories. Alice's name is Gleeson and Carol's is Prior (Ron).

George and Marje celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, December 1984. In 1985 they moved into their new home in Irma.

SPRING IN ALBERTA

Chinook winds are blowing in sunny Alberta,
The streams and the rivers are starting to flow;
The snow fields so shiny, are losing their splendor,
Soon hills will be mauve, where the crocuses grow.
The song of the Red Wing, so sweetly is sounding,
The swans, and the wild geese are up on the wing;
And grey pussy willows grow plump on the bushes,
Alberta is bright, with the promise of spring.

...Elma Helgason



Sherrilee, Alana, Gordon, Joelle, Sharina, and Brian.

GORDON FISCHER FAMILY

by Sherrilee Fischer

Gordie and I were married on June 26th at the Grace United Church in Wainwright. We set up our first home in a little house north of Art Pierce's, known to most people as the Blanchard or Stapleton place. Our first daughter, Alana Dawn was born May 23rd, 1974 and we settled her into our little home. Until 1975 we travelled each day to the farm where we worked with George and Marje, Gordie's parents. For a few summers I worked at the Wainwright Hospital as an X-ray technician but after Alana arrived it seemed too difficult to manage all the intricacies of a career mother and farmwife.

Marrying into the Fischer family was quite an eye-opener. My new brothers-in-law and their sons in particular have developed teasing into an art! That toughened me up quite a bit after I started to catch on!

I am a grain farmer's daughter. My main training at home as the eldest of seven children was in the cooking and related departments. My father always had hired help, believing his daughters shouldn't have to work outside. I often tell him it would have been a lot easier on Gordie if I'd learned to drive a big truck and a tractor at home (even if the tractor was orange and not green!) But Gordie is a determined fellow and proceeded to teach me to farm. The big truck I mastered fairly easily. The tractor took awhile longer. My first year baling was a test of husband endurance. Gordie was operating the bale stooker behind the baler and I was "driving". I wasn't very smooth on clutch operation, so that everytime I took off, Gordie nearly fell off. His reaction time was remarkable. The tractor was pretty noisy and while I was driving blithely on, proudly baling straw, Gordie was back on the stooker shaking one fist and yelling unmentionables. Ron and Coreen Larson pulled into the field one day and watched us a while before we noticed them. I'm sure they still laugh.

My story of the creating of a farmwife also involves my difficulties in the cattle department. I doubt that Gordie

will ever make me into a cattlemother but he never seems to give up on me. One of the first experiences happened one afternoon when a big Hereford bull we had and some younger bulls wrecked the corral fence. Gordie patiently explained to me how he needed me so badly for a little fence repair job and I must come right now. My job? Stand in the open gateway and stop the bulls from running out. "It's easy" says Gordie. "You just stand there." Then he added "They won't stop if they get running!" I was as valuable as a puff of smoke by then. Other experiences seem to come my way, and I have to admit I'm usually the first coward over the fence. The daughters in the family are doing much better.

I always say you should never let that farmer husband be such a dictator. I'm sure a lot of farm women can relate to my leaving Gordie, his big truck, his tractor and his temper stuck in the mucky corral one winter night while I went to weep in my mother-in-law's living room. She was most sympathetic.

In the spring of 1975 we started talks with the Tindall family as they proceeded to consolidate their farming-ranching operations into one unit in High Prairie. As a result, we bought the Tindall interest in Grandpa's 'Dream Ranch' and rented the remainder from Grandpa. My grandparents were delighted to see the ranch remain in the family. In June we moved in and set about becoming ranchers. Gordie always talks about being a straight grain farmer and here we were developing the hundred cow purebred Hereford herd into a two hundred head cow-calf operation. I believe the hardest part at first was learning to move cattle with horses instead of trucks. George became attached to the river valley in short order and managed not to desert us as we learned the ropes.

Bill Johnston was now working for us on a part-time basis. He and his wife live on an acreage that was once part of the Wes Bacon farm. Being so close and a mechanic as well was pretty attractive to us. His employment began when he stopped for a social visit one late night and by the time he left had talked himself into a job. He's still an integral part of our operation. There's a well-known phrase around here: "Get Bill to fix it." He fixed us up with CB radios in the spring of 1976 when he and Gordie were fencing in the DND area across the river and our baby number two was expected. The radios were for *my* peace of mind - but pretty nice to have when farming problems developed. Can't say they made things very peaceful as my role as 'go-fer' seemed to get a lot busier.

The farming operation was now big enough to require a year-round hired man. As is the way with hired hands, they came and went. The summer of 1976 just after our second daughter, Joelle Denise was born, Brad Nilson, a neighbor's son, came to work for us. He was recovering from an accident at home in which he had lost his right arm and suffered many other injuries when he fell on the power take-off shaft of a grain roller. Gordie was a little reluctant to hire this injured youngster of fifteen but after a little thought decided to take him on. Brad worked with us off and on until 1982 and became a part of the family. He grew up with us and worked alongside us with ever willing hand. We never ceased to wonder how he managed to do so many things in spite of his so-called

handicap. He teased the kids unmercifully (which they loved) and was usually a pretty cheerful fellow to have around. As does a son or brother, he decided to move on and is now employed with Pasztor Farms. He has married and has a wee daughter, and he and his new family are special to us.

Our third daughter (heaven forbid, no sons yet?) Sharina Dee was born on St. Patrick's Day, 1978. Where Alana is our creative child and Joelle our musical one, Sharina is by far our spunkiest. The three girls are busy skating, dancing, swimming, horseback riding, doing crafts and learning to be lady farmers (Gordie hopes). I obviously have joined the ranks of "Mothers on the Road". It would be interesting to see how many miles our Irma farm Moms log between family activities and farm necessities. We are a busy bunch.

Our farming operations continue to become more mechanized each year. Our first major acquisition after moving to what we call the south farm was a four wheel drive three-quarter ton G.M.C. truck. This seemed to be necessary to get around the river hills country. This particular truck was jinxed. One day Gordie got it hung up on a rock along the riverbank. He walked home and next morning sent the two hired men of the time to pull it off the rock and home. They came back to the house laughing so hard they could hardly talk. They thought Gordie had really pulled their leg because the truck that was 'just a little job' now had water running through the cab windows. Naturally Gordie thought they were pulling his leg and didn't believe them. But seeing is believing. We found out later that the dam at Forestburg had released water during the night and the river had risen nearly three feet overnight. After a couple of small fires, an embarrassing fender bender in the driveway, and a major fire under the hood (during which Brad probably ran a record half mile) this truck was finally laid to rest.

In addition it seems we need better and bigger trucks for hauling grain and cattle. The small tractors we started with have made way for four wheel drive power.

The cultivator grew in width from sixteen feet to thirty-seven feet, the harrows from thirty to seventy feet. The stone plate and old Kinsella rock pickers have become two very large reel-type pickers. Stooking, hauling and stacking square bales has changed to round bales of five hundred to fifteen hundred pounds hauled on specially equipped trucks or wagons. The round bales are fed out with a grapple fork on the front end loader of a nice warm tractor - a far cry from square bales pitched off the back of the truck or flatbed wagon, with one or two babies along while wife drove the truck. We've rebuilt the two corral systems as well, as the original ones have had their day. Our cattle are watered from automatic waterers in the yard, and from a spring that runs year-round down by the river near where we put up silage and feed the main cow herd.

Our crops are varied - ranging from feed barley and oats to wheat to that bread and butter crop we must now call Canola. Apparently the name rapeseed had poor ratings over the erucic acid controversy and we now grow a better product. Thus the name change. Gordie has ventured into the field of registered seed and is contemplating more involvement here. Fertilizing fields is

done several ways - gas, liquid and granular application. Soil testing is important these days. Herbicides and pesticides are big business and we are faced with these changing new chemicals and their use continually. Efficiency seems to be the keyword here, and we make use of custom aerial application and terragator application to speed up operations. I enjoy talking grain much more than cattle - more my home ground. Although Gordie consistently advises me how to park trucks, shift gears, set up augers, pick up seed, get the right parts and pass the right wrenches. *Loud and clear* I still think I do a better job here among his four legged beauties. Ever left your farmer with his truck and temper in the middle of the field?

Farming and ranching is our business and our life. In spite of the great difficulties of the economy of the 80's we still go on. George and Marje have been working along with us and together we've continued to develop the two farms into a viable operation. Our dreams of our farm we like to instill in our children, of which there are now four. The son did finally appear, to our amazement. Bryan James arrived May 19th, 1981 in a big hurry. He appears to be a farmer in the making, if his toys are any indication.

My favorite days are those we spend down along the riverbank trying to catch a fish with Grandpa George, or floating a log by the beaver dam, or taking coffee to Daddy out in the field, or taking Grandpa Pete on a drive to show him the cattle and of course, just sitting in the backyard. We really are farmers.

KEN FISCHER FAMILY

by Ken Fischer

Ken Fischer was born in Viking, Alberta in 1935 and was raised on a farm in the Irma area. There he attended three different public schools, Alma Mater, Education Point and Avonglen. Following completion of public school he graduated from Irma high school in 1954. During high school Ken was involved in sports and keenly participated in baseball, hockey and curling.

Ken's first job was on a farm in Saskatchewan during the summer and fall of 1955. The next two years he worked on a survey crew in the Wainwright and Hardisty areas.

In 1958 Ken enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy and completed initial training in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. The next two years were spent in Esquimalt, B.C. and on board the navy frigate New Glasgow. In 1960 he entered the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta on a Navy University plan.

In December, 1961 during his second year at University, Ken married Madeleine Gamble, a registered nurse who had graduated from the University of Alberta hospital in January, 1959. Ken graduated in May of 1964 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. A son they named Darrin Kenneth was born convocation day.

Following graduation Ken was sent to Halifax, Cornwallis and Montreal for a six month naval officer training course. He then spent the next three years on board the Canadian warships Chaudiere and St. Laurent

for marine engineering training. While at sea he travelled to Ireland, Scandinavia, Europe, Bermuda, Antigua and Barbados. During this period two daughters were added to the family. Marjorie Dee was born in 1966 and Jill Corrine in 1967 in Halifax. While in the Maritimes the family enjoyed numerous camping trips. Playing bridge filled many lonely hours on board ship and ashore. Ken curled with the Navy club when ashore long enough.

In 1967 Ken and his family moved to Sorel, Quebec, where he worked on the building of the Hydrofoil Bras D'Or. With three children under three it was a busy time but Ken and Madeleine did manage to join the local curling club and meet the local people. Upon completion of construction of the hydrofoil in 1968, Ken was transferred back to Halifax for one year of sea trials.

In 1969 Ken resigned from the navy and accepted a position in Ottawa as a marine engineer for design and repair of warships in the Department of National Defence. After three years in Ottawa Ken changed jobs and in 1973 moved to Delta, B.C. to work for Lockheed Petroleum Services as a project engineer to design and construct subsea oil well service and production equipment for offshore oil field development. Shortly after arriving he was sent to the Gulf of Mexico for a week, on board a company diving vessel to become familiar with the diving bell system and its operation.



Dee, Madeline, Ken, Jill and Darrin in front.

Ken and his family enjoyed the moderate climate of living in greater Vancouver area. Ken coached baseball and hockey teams on which son Darrin played. He also coached the girls in softball. Ken and Darrin experienced the joy of winning the B.C. championship and runner-up in the National which was hosted in Tsawwassen when Darrin was twelve years old. The next level of baseball took them to Stettler, Alberta to win the Western Canadian and on to New Brunswick to compete. The family took up skiing in beautiful British Columbia. Ken was active in the curling club as well. Many good friends were made in the ten years of active community and church involvement in Tsawwassen.

Ken stayed with Lockheed for eight years until 1981 when he accepted a position with Gulf Oil working in their offshore division.

For the next two years he remained in Delta (Tsawwassen) to supervise the construction of two ice-breakers for oil exploration in the Beaufort Sea for Gulf Oil. These ships were named by the schoolchildren of the North - the "Terry Fox" (with permission of Terry's family) and the "Kalvik" meaning wolverine in Eskimo. In September of 1983 Ken and his family moved to Calgary where Ken is currently working as an engineer for Gulf Oil on development of offshore oil fields in the Beaufort Sea, Arctic Islands and Atlantic Ocean off the east coast of Canada. Since being in Calgary, Ken was flown to the Beaufort Sea to spend a week on the Terry Fox.



Greg, Brent, Doug, Sherri, Marian Robert, Tracey.

ROBERT FISCHER

Robert (Butch) Fischer and Marian Smallwood were married in the Irma United Church, February 21, 1959.

They made their home on the Smallwood farm until March, 1975 when they moved into their new home. Butch farmed with his father-in-law, Cliff Smallwood, slowly adding his own land, cattle and machinery. In 1961 he purchased his first land from Fred Kuwica, later adding the former Dootson farm, Albert Firkus farm - south of Jarrow and Syd Knowles's land. It was on the Dootson farm that they built their new home.

Butch and Marian have five children: Brent (1959), Greg (1961), Sherri (1963), Tracey (1965) and Doug (1967). All five have taken an active part on the farm and all belonged to the 4-H Beef Club.

All five were members of the school band and took part in school activities. In 1979 Brent skipped the school curling team with Darryl Nilson, Alan Gulbraa and

Charlie Jackson. They won their zone and the right to take part in the northern boys' play-offs in Edmonton. The same year Brent, Greg, Wendy Burr and Paralee Holt played in the provincial mixed school playoffs in Strathmore.

Butch was a member of the Viking Shamrock baseball team that won the Provincial 'B' playoffs one year and placed second two years. He played with the Irma Aces hockey team until 1967. He retired from hockey until 1976 when he became a member of the Wainwright Battle River Old-timers. This team won a Gold Medal in Switzerland in 1976 and a Bronze Medal in Denmark in 1977. Butch was the building chairman for the new curling rink.

In 1977 Butch managed, Greg was the catcher and Doug the batboy for the Irma Midgets when they won the Gold Medal at the Alberta Summer Games in Red Deer.

Brent and Greg played with the Irma Junior 'A' fastball team. This team competed with city teams and won Silver Medals in 1978 and 1979.

Brent graduated from Irma School in 1977. He attended Olds College in 1979-81 taking Agriculture Mechanics. Brent purchased three quarters of land in 1980. This made him a fourth generation farmer on both sides of his family. Brent is a charter member of the Kinsmen Club, 4-H Beef Club leader and president of the Curling Club.

Greg graduated from Central Memorial School in Calgary in 1979. He was a member of the Chief 'AA' Midget hockey team winning the city championship. He attended NAIT 1980-82 graduating in Heavy Duty Technology. He was a member of the NAIT hockey team that won the Canadian College Championship in 1982. Greg is now farming.

Sherri graduated from Camrose Luthern College in 1981 and she was a member of the lady's curling team that played in the provincial college playoffs in Grande Prairie. She started nurse's training at the University Hospital in January, 1982.

Tracey is taking her Grade 12 at the C.L.C. In 1981-82 Tracey took part in a three month Quebec-Alberta school exchange. Tracey went to Quebec from February to April.

Doug is in Grade ten and a member of the 4-H Beef Club. He played with the Irma Bantam fastball team and they won a Gold Medal in Calgary in the 'B' Division in 1981. In 1982 he played with Irma when they hosted the Western Canada Bantam 'A' playoffs.

Besides being busy with her family's activities Marian is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She is a P.M. and has been Grand Page twice and this year is Grand Esther of the Grand Chapter of Alberta. She is a P.H.R.L. of the Royal Purple.

Butch was elected the Progressive Conservative M.L.A. for the Wainwright Constituency November 2, 1982. He was appointed vice-chairman of the Agricultural Caucus Committee.

The members of the Fischer family have been involved in hockey or figure skating, fastball, curling and golfing, community and school activities and the Irma United Church. Butch and Greg are the first of the second generation to be members of the Irma Aces hockey team.



Mr. & Mrs. Dick Fitzpatrick on left and Mr. & Mrs. Williams.

RICHARD STYLE FITZPATRICK

by Awilda Pioker

Dick, as he was known, was born in Michigan, U.S.A. in 1877. The family later moved to Wyebridge, Ontario. At the ripe age of seventeen, Dad headed west and worked in the Rabbit Hill district which is south of Edmonton. There he met Miss Harriett Sutherland. Mom had just moved from Powassan, Ontario with her parents. The couple married and farmed in the Edmonton and Barrhead districts.

In 1927 we moved to Irma from Barrhead where we settled across the road north from where the Crescent Hill school site is today which was later used as a home. There was no school when we arrived, and we were a family of eleven children then and the majority of school age. Dad, along with the rest of the fathers of the district, got busy and in short order we had a school. The first trustees were Martin Enger, Clara Sellers and Dad. The first teacher was Alma Miles and a later one was Olive Rush.

There wasn't much broken on our land so through lots of hard work, acres were added year by year. A house was erected to live in and also barns for the cattle. The first summer we lived in tents and fought off the caterpillars which were terrible that year.

In the spring of 1934 grain or cattle were not worth much so Dad moved the family that were still home up north to Holyoke, a post office at the southeast corner of Muriel Lake. There we started all over again, clearing land and getting something ready to live in by winter. We found life on the homestead much like living with nature. All our food was nature grown, wild fruit, meat, fish, vegetables all off the land kept food on the table and our tummies full. Though life was hard, people were drawn closer together and we made our own entertainment - music and cards etc.

The war broke out and Edwin and Gordon were called to go into service.

Dad passed away in November, 1946. After some years Mom moved to Wainwright with the three youngest who were still at home. She lived in Wainwright till her passing on June 14th, 1980 just eight days short of being ninety-three. Mom loved gardening and her flowers. Her favorite pastime was making quilts.

Over the years my parents had raised a large family of twelve children, some had predeceased Mother. Ephram

in 1907 an infant; George in 1973; Willie (Bill) in 1975 and Gordon in 1979.

Those of us children left are Florence Barton and Myrtle Fenton of Edmonton, Edith Sanders of Bradner, B.C., Sarah Bacon of Vermilion, Pearl Read of Kerrobert and Hardisty, Edwin and Ivan of Calgary and myself at Wainwright.

We are pretty scattered now, but all keep in touch. We thank God for all the good friends and neighbors we've had along life's path.

Edith Sanders passed away January 27, 1985.



Alfred and Judy Fleming with their children: Penny, Rhonda, Wayne, Nancy, Karen, and Joseph.

ALFRED FLEMING

Alfred Fleming, son of Archie and Peggy Fleming was born December 22, 1950 in the Mannville hospital. Alf went to school at Albert for six years and then was transported to Irma school for the remainder. He enjoyed playing softball for one year with the Irma Tigers and then for ten years with Albert Royals. He helped his father and two brothers farm their homestead in the Albert district until he took over some of the farm in 1974 and farmed on his own. Alf was married in November of 1970 to Judy Kellar, who was born in Mannville in 1951 to Frank and Connie Kellar. Judy was raised in the Orbindale district and went to school at Albert for six years, then was sent to Irma until grade twelve. She spent one year attending Vermilion college. Judy enjoyed the sport of softball. She played six years with Irma Tigerettes and one year with the Albert team.

Alf and Judy are raising six children: Penny was born in February 1972, Rhonda in December 1972, Wayne in February 1975, Nancy in January 1977, Karen in November 1978 and Joseph in October 1980. The Fleming children attend school in Irma. Alf and the children enjoy the winters by playing recreation hockey, minor hockey and ringette. He also coaches Tom Thumbs which includes ages eight and under.

ARCHIE FLEMING FAMILY

by Archie Fleming

I was born in Toronto, Ontario and at the age of three I came to Alberta with my parents, landing at Mannville in October, 1910. I went to the first Albert school, built in 1911 until the age of fifteen. I quit school and started farming with my dad, which I did all the time he lived.

In 1935 I married Muriel Peggy Dew of the Tankerton School district south of Mannville. We have five children; three boys and twin girls, namely John, Jean, Joan, Hugh and Alfred.

John, who married Barbara Hardy, lives where I used to live on the N.E. 3-48-9-W4th and they have four girls, Diane, Doris, Edna and Debra.

Jean married Jerry Wilson and lives in Calgary. They have a family of four, Jerry, Juanita, Judy and JoAnne. Juanita married Wade Noirot and they live in the Rocky Mountain House district of Alberta with their two boys. Judy was married in 1982 to a farmer by the name of Gregory Conn, who lives in Innisfail.

Joan married Ches Spornitz and lives in the Czar district. Ches teaches in Hughenden now, after teaching for a number of years at the Czar school. They have two boys and three girls, Bob, Wendy, Myrna, Coreen and Dean. Wendy married Grant Hoff and they make their home in Fort McMurray and have a son.

Hugh married Elsie Cropley and live on the S.W. 12-48-9-W4th, in the Albert school district. Into this marriage came four lovely girls, Linda, Teresa and a set of twins, Lotty and Lorry. Linda was wed in 1982 to Laurier Mahé and they live at Legal.

Our youngest son, Alfred, married Judy Kellar and they reside on the old Fleming homestead N.W. 2-48-9-W4th, raising a family of six, four girls and two boys, Penny, Rhonda, Wayne, Nancy, Karen and Joseph.

We have twenty-three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

When Alfred got married we left the farm and have been living in Irma for over eleven years. We have retired from farming and the boys farm the land. Peggy enjoys gardening and she sings in the United Church choir. I enjoy small mechanical jobs and making things with wood.

Archie passed away in July, 1985.



Peggy and Archie Fleming and Alf on their first holiday to Banff in 1956.



Mrs. Peggy Fleming and twins Jean and Joan in spring of 1938.

JOHN THOMAS FLEMING

by Archie Fleming

John was born March 17th, 1873 at Killard in the County of Fermaugh, Northern Ireland, where he was raised and went to school. He came to Canada in 1911, landing in Edmonton. When he told one of them at the station, "I am going to Mannville", he was told he must mean Morinville. And that's where he ended up. Being a French settlement he had quite a time getting things righted. His trunk landed in Mannville and he a couple of days later.

He homesteaded on the S.W. 10-48-9. He lived with us while Dad, (Joseph) went out to work on the G.T.P. railway (now C.N.R.) building stations along the line from Viking, west to Edmonton. When Dad got enough money to buy some horses he brought them home and my uncle did some breaking on our home quarter, while Dad continued working in Edmonton. John came in one day



John T. Fleming on his homestead in early days.

after breaking twelve acres, and told my Mother, "If you get one more acre broke, that will be enough to keep you for life!"

Dad built a shack for Uncle John on S.E. of 10. He got some horses to work with and some cows for milk and bached in his new house all the time until 1938. Then he went back to Ireland and when he returned he brought Sarah, George and Jean Sherry back with him. From then on he had someone to cook for him.

John passed away in 1959 and was laid to rest in the Mannville Cemetery.

JOSEPH ALFRED FLEMING

by Archie Fleming

Joseph was born February 2nd, 1879 at Killard in the County of Fermaugh, Northern Ireland, where he was raised and went to school. He then apprenticed with a builder of traps (a two wheeled cart) where they built the wheels and all the parts.

Then in 1904 he married Ellie Johnston from Stonebridge in the County of Armagh, moving to Canada, they settled in Toronto where he worked for a contractor named J.G. Walsh, building houses. He worked for several years.

The first born child was a girl who was born dead. I was born in 1907. At the age of one and one-half years Mother and I got diphtheria and they had quite a time to save us. We were quarantined, but seeing money was scarce and no welfare or unemployment pay in those days, Dad would sneak out in the morning before daylight and work outside on the building. He then went to work for the C.P.R. finishing passenger coaches. After some time we came out to Alberta, landing at Mannville in October, 1910 where we went south to the homestead, N.W. 2-48-9-W4th, which had been filed on by uncle Archie Fleming when he filed on his own. As there were no houses on this land Mother and I stayed with newly acquainted friends by the names of Mr. and Mrs. William Burrows, north of the Buffalo Coulee. While Dad and Joe Coot, who had come here the same time as my uncle Archie, went on to dad's homestead and stayed in a tent all winter and built the house that winter with the lumber he brought west along with the furniture. In the Spring we moved to the homestead and as the ground was frozen when the house was built there was no cellar under it. With an ox and a stoneboat Dad dug the cellar and hauled the dirt away that summer.

My uncle John came from Ireland in 1911. Dad then went to work on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (now C.N.R.) which was coming through the country (passing where Irma is today) building stations along the line to Edmonton. When the stations were finished he took the money and bought a team of horses in Edmonton and brought them to the farm where my uncle John used them along with an ox, which was very fast and quite wild, to break some prairie. Dad kept on working in Edmonton doing carpentry work. We got our groceries from Mannville so had to cross the Buffalo Coulee, which had no bridge. This was alright in winter when it was frozen but in the Spring it was quite a job as the water was quite deep and the horses didn't like it, but in



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Fleming and son Archie, age two, taken in Toronto in 1909 before coming west in 1910.

the summer the water was not very deep. They got some cows to milk and sold cream.

My folks had the Zoldovara Post Office and Dad was the first mail carrier. The route went from home to Saltaux post office, which was at the William Smith farm (now owned by George Younker) and then to Orbindale post office which was at the Tom Coultman farm (now owned by Wallace Ford). He then went into Irma to stay overnight and back-tracked the next day. This route went for nearly a year and then Saltaux P.O. was left off the route and Orbindale remained, so now the route was done in one day. Dad quit hauling the mail after four years and Oscar Anderson, Fred Pyle, and Layton Barss were later mail carriers. Then the rural route started in 1930 with Charlie Pyle as deliveryman on the route number one north. Other deliverymen were Jim Carter, Art Knudson, Nay Fuder, Charlie Milne, Herb Larson, Art Larson, William Dootson and Vern Sampson. Marlus Larson, the first lady to have the rural delivery has it now.

They boarded the first schoolteacher in the Albert School district and her name was Miss Rooney Christenson.

They farmed and got more cattle. In 1918 all the grain was frozen very badly and dad took a wagon box of it to town. The elevator man, Mr. Burkholder, took the grain, but he told him "Don't bring anymore!" 1918 was also the winter of the flu epidemic, which hit the country and many people died.

The hard winter of 1919-20 came on the 8th of October with a foot of snow, which stayed well into May. 1919 being very dry, feed was very scarce and very high priced. Dad bought a stack of wheat straw for nine hundred dollars from Roy Marquis, who lived in the Orbindale district. When spring started to come Dad made a "V" plow pulled with horses to push the snow off the grass in May so the cattle could eat. Dad lost only a few cattle that winter but many people lost more. Several lost as many as forty-five to fifty head and one farmer lost ninety head. Spring came and cowhides were a big price.

Cattle prices went down and by fall they were not worth very much. Some people had borrowed money to buy feed and now the cattle were worth very little.

Again in 1929 it was very dry and there was not much grain, but there was quite a lot of prairie wool (hay) to put up, so there was enough feed. 1929 was the year of the big stock market crash and the start of the great depression.

The Spring of 1930 was very dry having very little snow in the winter of 1929-30 and no moisture in 1929. When the crop was seeded the ground was as dry as ashes, but it started to rain, resulting in a very heavy crop. We got a lot of moisture in harvesttime causing much of the grain to be harvested tough, damp, and even rejected. Anyone who had wheat and sold it to the Pool in 1929 got too large an initial payment. As prices had fallen so much the overpayment was deducted off later deliveries. 1929 was known as the year of the overpayment.

Tractors were only used for "belt" work and tractor plows, discs, etc. were changed over to use with horses. Grain prices fell to the nineteen cent mark. Times were bad and lots of motors were taken out of autos and the cars became Bennett buggies pulled with horses. This was the time R.B. Bennett was Prime Minister of Canada. Hence the name (Bennett Buggy).

In 1932 Mother got rheumatic fever and was confined to bed and was under doctor's care at home. They hired a girl named Peggy Dew and she nursed Mother for quite some time. Mother got somewhat better but had a few relapses.

Winter wages were from five dollars to ten dollars a month in the thirties. Some even worked for their board and in the Spring and Summer months got up to thirty-five dollars a month. Men rode on the boxcars from coast to coast in search of work and even lay on the "catwalk" on top of the boxcars full of grain. At dark they would tie themselves to the "catwalk" in case they went to sleep and fell off.

Towards the end of the thirties it started to improve and cars and tractors came into use again.

Mother and Dad built a new two storey house in 1934 on the homestead quarter with a full cellar and a cistern for storing rain water, which was used for washing. Dad continued to farm until he passed away November 4th, 1951 and Mother lived with Peggy and me until she passed away, June 20th, 1961. They are both laid to rest in the Mannville cemetery.

JACK FLETCHER HISTORY

by Jack Fletcher Jr.

Jack was born in 1886 in the County of Durham, England. He came to Canada in 1912 and worked in Edmonton on several projects such as delivering milk and groceries to Clover Bar and district. He worked on the C.P.R. underpass before he homesteaded at Magnolia, Alberta for a short period.

On coming back to Edmonton he took over the managership of the Northern Hardware Service Station, the first in the city. From there he went to work in the Northern Hardware main store and was there for several years. In 1926 he bought the Irma Hardware and became



Jack and Alice Fletcher.

an Irma businessman.

Alice Berg was born at Lee Park, Alberta and took her schooling there. She went to Holden to work as a live-in babysitter and also worked in a store there. Later she moved to Irma and worked in Liden's store.

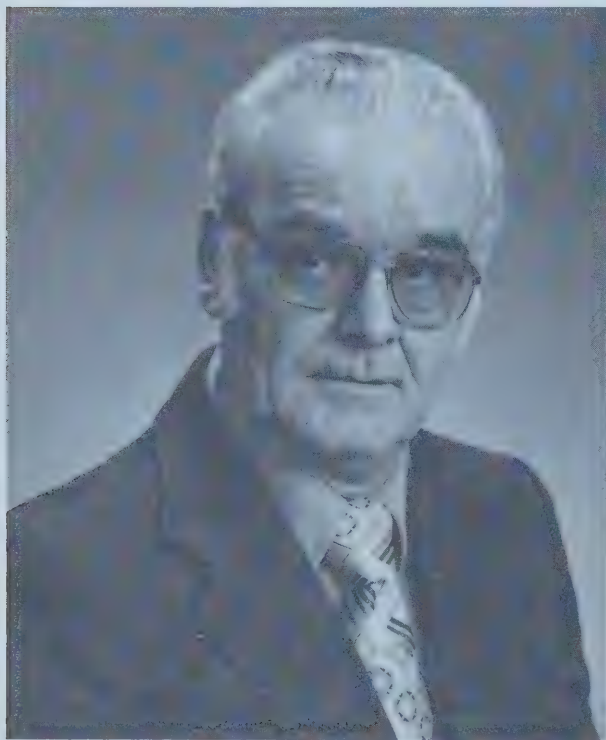
Jack and Alice were married July 6, 1927 and they resided at Irma until 1947. Jack and Alice led a busy life as they took part in most community projects. Jack was a member of the Village Council for years also serving as mayor. Both were great sports enthusiasts; supporting

hockey, curling and ball. Jack helped organize the first curling club and helped build the curling rink. Alice was an avid curler and owned her own set of curling rocks. Jack was a member of Gratton Masonic Lodge and for a time was Grand Master of Alberta. Alice was a member of the United Church Choir often singing solos. She was also a member of Irma W.I. and played softball with the Irma Ladies.

Jack and Alice had two sons Jackie and Gordon. Gordon passed away as an infant and is buried in the Irma Cemetery. Jack Junior took most of his schooling at Irma and finished in Edmonton. Since leaving school he has had a varied career. First he got a job with the Dominion Bank - now called Toronto Dominion. While working there he got a job with Boulevard Taxi after bank hours keeping books and driving a cab until midnight when necessary. His next move was keeping books in a service station before working for a time with the C.N.R. For a time he worked at the oil patch near Camrose. His next job was with the C.P.R. and later moved to Yellow Cab where he drove taxi and worked his way up to dispatcher. From there Jack went trucking first at Truckers' Terminal and then for two other trucking firms before he became involved with Adby Transport - now known as Trimac. He has travelled over most of North America. In December 1983 he received his fifteen year pin.

Jack married and has six children who are living in the Edmonton area.

Jack senior passed away December 1966 and Alice in October 1982.



Jack Fletcher, Junior

MARENCE G. FLETCHER (NEE ORTON)

I was born in Wainwright, November 29th, 1936, middle child of Ted and Sadie Orton. Irma was our home until I was four years old when we moved to Calgary and in 1945 to England. Here I completed my education receiving my nurse's training at Dudley Road Hospital in Birmingham. My desire was to return to Canada to nurse so with a friend nurse Mary Greaves, we journeyed to Canada in 1958, having been accepted in the Taber hospital.

We visited friends in Irma on our way to our destination with the firm intention of returning to Irma and obtaining employment in Viking or Wainwright hospitals. However, fate intervened and within a year Mary was married to Peter Hooge and I to Douglas Fletcher, both farmers of that area. We never did return to Irma to work as nurses but do make frequent visits which we enjoy very much.

Douglas and I have four children, Donna, Blake, Garry and Bruce. Donna is secretary for the District Home Economist in Taber. Blake is married to Debbie DeBona (1982) and farms with his father-in-law. Garry works on the oil rigs in the winter and farms with his father in summer. Bruce is in W.R. Myers High School in Taber.

Douglas and I have made several trips back to England as well as to Irma and have a close affiliation towards both.



Blake, Debbie, Marence, Douglas, Donna. Front Row: Bruce and Garry.

SMILE

"The thing that goes the farthest
Toward Making life worth-while
That costs the least and does the
most
Is just a Pleasant Smile.

MARGARET A. FLEWELLING

by Ethel (Tate) Nagy

Mrs. Margaret A. Flewelling (nee Snow) was born in Belwood, Ontario August 8, 1855. Her eldest daughter, Alice L. Flewelling, was born near Fergus, Ontario January 2, 1878. They joined Dora Flewelling in Irma in October 1916 and lived for many years in the cottage that is now the home of Keith Coffin.

Mrs. M. Flewelling did home nursing in the area. She had experience in this for she had been a widow for many years and had worked to raise her family. No welfare in those days.

Alice worked as a clerk in Armstrong's store in Wainwright and the Irma Co-op store and for many years in the J.C. McFarland & Co. store.

They were both active in the church and community and Alice was a member of the Rebekah Lodge. They both loved flowers. Mrs. Flewelling always had a large bed of pansies in her front yard and Alice grew beautiful sweet peas.

THE FLUEVOG FAMILY

by Irene Fluevog

Nikolai Fluevog and his wife Gina began their married life in a house by the sea, that Nick had built in the Sunnmor area of Norway, where they had both been born and raised. Earning a living by fishing was hard work as well as dangerous. By the time the family had increased to three children, they were seriously thinking



Sigurd, Dicka, Nanna, Nikolai, Gina, Norman.

of starting life in the new country of Canada. Nick had been corresponding with a former neighbor Mr. R.A. Larson known as Cap, who had immigrated to Irma, Alberta. In April of 1910, with their children, Petrikka (Dicka), Norman and Nanna and Gina's brother John Johnson accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Larson and young son Olaf and Mrs. Larson's brother John Peterson, they took a boat for London, England. Here they waited four or five days before they were able to board the Corinthian, and set out for the new land. Finally after seventeen days at sea, through stormy weather and much sea sickness, they arrived at the Port

of Quebec. While they were on the high seas, news came that King Edward VII of England had passed away.

Here arrangements were made to travel on the immigration train to Wainwright. The coaches were made to accommodate the needs of the people, so that they could cook their own meals etc. These were mixed trains, that stopped along the way, picking up people who were going west, their household effects and animals. Travelling was slow and wearisome, so they were glad to arrive at their destination.

In Wainwright they went to the Livery Barn, where a man with a lumber wagon was hired to take the ten of them and their possessions to Irma. When they came to the Battle River they had to ford it as there were no bridges or ferries. As they went across, water could be seen coming through the floor of the wagon. When they came to Irma they stayed at the Hotel, owned by Mr. Herb Anderson at that time.

The following morning, May 18, Nick Fluevog walked out to Mr. R. Larson's farm north of town, a distance of five miles. Before long Cap had hitched his white ox and black horse to the lumber wagon and had gone to town to get all of them and bring them to his farm, where they received a pioneer's welcome.

A bachelor, by the name of Joe Ronnestad, who had proved up his homestead, about one-half mile from Cap's place, had gone to Edmonton to work. Arrangements were made for Nick and his family to live there. As soon as they were settled, Dicka, being of school age went with Alf, Rick and Augusta Larson to Ross School.

That summer Nick got a job working for Stan and Fred Bumpus, who lived in the Melbrae district, southwest of Irma. This meant he had to walk about twelve miles across country to get there. Each weekend he would walk home to see his family. Many times he would stop at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Larson for a cup of coffee in their sod house. This was on the place where Mrs. Elva Spring, a daughter, now lives.

After looking around he decided to file on a homestead on the SE of 36-44-10 which has been the family home ever since and where son Norman and his wife Irene now live.

As part payment for his work he received a one roomed house, about fourteen feet by sixteen feet, which the Bumpus's helped him move to his land the following spring. This was fixed up with a lean-to added on and a cellar, for food and vegetables, put under it. When this was completed he moved his family into it. Later another room was added. It was in this home that Sigurd, their fourth child was born. Then came Edwin, who passed away at the age of two years. This place was used until 1924 when a new house was built.

In 1912 Melbrae School was built. Dicka and Norman were among the first students to attend when it was opened. They had four miles to walk to get there. When a horse could be spared they rode. Later when they became old enough, Nanna and Sigurd went to school there also.

In these early days, when the people settled on the land, fences were few and far between. Around 1916 Mr. George Smith, commonly known as "Sheepy" from Wainwright herded a large number of sheep just east and

south of our land. Two shepherds took care of them. Sometimes they would stop in to have coffee with Norman's folks.

The ewes, if they gave birth to more than one lamb, often were unable to take care of them. Mrs. Fluevog was asked if she would care to raise some, which she was happy to do. These bottle-fed lambs became great pets and was the beginning of a flock of sheep that they had. As well as providing meat, Mrs. Fluevog spun yarn for knitting and carded wool for making quilts from the fleece of the sheep.

With the rangeland being open, keeping track of the horses and cattle was a problem, so Mr. Fluevog bought a brand, F, for the first two letters of his surname, to be put on the right jaw. This was an awkward place to apply it, so he never used it as much as he would have liked to. However, this was the only one available at that time. He obtained his brand by writing to the Office of the Recorder of Brands, Medicine Hat, Alberta.

In these days also, it was not uncommon in the early spring for Indians to come and pitch their teepees around our lakes, where they would trap muskrats. Often the squaws and their children, walking in single file, would come to the house to beg for food. Norman's mother would give them eggs, salted pork, bread and other foods. Quite often there was a blind man being led by his son, by holding onto a willow stick and following right behind him, who would come for food also. When fall came they would come back again as the men would work on the threshing outfits in the district.

In these early days one of the neighbors was a Norwegian bachelor by the name of Olaf (Ole) Dahl. He homesteaded one of the quarters of land later owned by Alex Smallwood. He was a frequent visitor at the Fluevog home. To the delight of Dicka and Norman, this kind gentleman gave them a horse to ride to school, for which they were so very grateful. His account is found elsewhere in this book.

Mr. and Mrs. Fluevog were always staunch supporters in the work of the church. Meetings were first held in the homes and then in Coal Springs School after it was built in 1913. The members worked hard to put money aside for a building fund. Sharon Lutheran Church was built in 1933, but they never got to see the completion of this dream. Mrs. Gina Fluevog died on October 25, 1932 and her husband Nick exactly to the day one year later. However Nick was able to help in the building of the church, for part of the time.

The years have brought many changes. Dicka married Ludvig Hollinger and went to live on a farm just west of the homeplace. Later Nanna and Peter Nilson were married and lived on the farm just north, the former Charlie Jackman place.

During the Second World War Sigurd joined the Air Force in the summer of 1940. That fall he married Ruth Wachter of Kinsella. He was posted to Bella Bella, B.C. After the war they settled in Vancouver and have been living there ever since.

Norman stayed at home and helped his father, until his passing when he took over the farm. He married Irene Egedahl from Provost, a schoolteacher. They had twin daughters, Evelyn and Esther. When the girls were ready

for school, there was no rural school available, as Melbrae, Coal Springs and Glenholm had all been closed. After two years instruction at home a small portable school, built by Mr. Dick Rohrer, to be called Coal Springs was constructed on S.E. 2-45-10 of Torlie Larson's farm. The following children from these districts attended this school with Mrs. Norman Fluevog as teacher: Carol and Faye Russell, Sonja and Lorna Larson, Nathan, Lorne and Jack Fuder, Bessie and Arthur Pedel and Evelyn and Esther Fluevog. After three years school buses came into use and the little school closed in 1956. The building was taken to Albert School north of Irma, to be used as a teacherage.

Esther is a nurse at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. Evelyn is married to David Gibson. They have three girls and one boy. They too make their home in Edmonton.

We can indeed be very thankful for the undaunted spirit and courage of the early pioneers who came and settled this land.



Esther, Evelyn, Irene and Norman Fluevog.



David and Evelyn Gibson (Fluevog) and children - Kareen, Colleen, Kevin and Heather.

RECOLLECTIONS OF IRMA SIGURD FLUEVOG

One of my early recollections is overlooking the lake below our home with the rolling farmland in the background. We attended Melbrae School to the southwest. Later I went to finish my schooling at Camrose Lutheran College plus a commercial course. Riding home from school, my sister Nan and I would dismount our horses and enjoy wild strawberries.

In addition to classmates, we played with the Jackmans, the Matt Larson boys, our cousins at the Erickson farm, the Russells next door. The lake offered nice swims. We were sad when our little brother Edwin was buried at a tender age. Several bachelors regularly visited the house, especially for evening coffee. There was Dan Larson, Barney Bjerkal, George and William Pedel and others. Frank Withall would sit on the steps in the evening and play his mandolin for us.

Highlights were trips like the ones to the Cap Larson place north of town, where my folks came on their early arrival from Norway. One time, while going there in a democrat with the family plus my cousin Lloyd Erickson, we were going up the steep Jackman hill. To ease the load on the trotting team my father asked us to walk.

Hardisty Lake picnics, rides to Coal Spring School to church were vivid recollections. The years 1927-30 were eventful ones just before the dustbowl and depression period. Competition brought out many cars like the Model A Ford, Whippets, Durants, Chevrolet, Essex and



Sigurd in car, Norman, Nanna and friend in Star Car, 1927.

Chrysler. Lindbergh made his first non stop flight across the Atlantic on May 20, 1927 and that was the day we got the new blue four door Star from Mr. George Tripp, a pioneer dealer in Irma from whom we also got our new tractor and threshing machine made by J.I. Case Co.

House meetings, schoolhouse plays and outdoor evening winter sports drew good crowds. In the 30's we built a ski scaffold on our highest hill, in a moment of madness, just before a big party. Hasty construction, together with fragile engineering practice made the structure appear menacing in the bright moonlight but it seemed a romantic moment to us. To most it looked

dangerous and they were right. Though they came with the eagerness of first time voyageurs the structure brought only a few brave customers. They came off the chute like a rocket, often landing on their heads or other softer spots. Then one enthusiastic adventurer suggested going up the scaffold and coming down on the toboggans. There was quick response. The thrill of flying through the air on this flat contraption was new and soon the runway was like ice. Success bolstered bravery so we finally made the jump more severe by piling up snow. This became a disaster and one group twirling like a corkscrew landed on the ice as they turned and were cut badly besides being bruised, so we decided to quit before we had a worse accident. A wonderful idea ended up in a memory.

In 1940 I married Ruth Wachter from Kinsella, who I met at the Irma skating rink. Had also joined the R.C.A.F. the same year. Was recruited at the time of Pearl Harbour into a secret trade with the wireless section, so my discharge was not until the fall of 1947. As we were stationed at Western Air Command in Vancouver at this time, I was fortunate in finding employment. Have been in several businesses and now live in South Burnaby.

We have four children, two girls and two boys. Karen is married to Gordon Hagen who came from Viking. They have two girls. John has three children. He is married to Ingrid who came from Australia. Her folks live in Vancouver now. Gail works for John in Edmonton, where he has a shoe store. Glen is married to a girl of Swiss descent. He and Esther live close to us.

Irma has a special place in our hearts and we all appreciate the diligent pioneers who worked so hard to build the communities.

FRANCIS FORD SR.

submitted by George Ford

Hearing of the possibilities and wealth of the new world, Francis Ford along with Mr. and Mrs. William New and family emigrated in 1907 from South Wales to Alberta. Francis was 21 years old and Mont New, the son of Bill New, was 18.

Francis Ford (known as Frank) homesteaded on the N.E. 2-47-8 and William New filed on the S.E. 2-47-8. Burt Haun homesteaded on the N.W. of the same section, and Whitelys homesteaded one mile east of Frank.

Frank shipped two oxen and a walking plow from Edmonton to Mannville in a boxcar. Irma had not as yet come into being. He walked about 28 miles to choose his land and later to get groceries, etc. He followed a prairie trail that was made by wagons hauling cement from Mannville to the site of what was to be the Fabyan trestle bridge.

His first house was made of prairie sod plowed by the oxen and cut in lengths of about two feet for the walls. Poles, willow brush, and slough hay covered with sods were made up for the roof. Inside, the sod walls were plastered with clay, then whitewashed. He got lumber for the floor and the door. There were two small windows in the south wall as well. The barn was also built of sods and poles.

At first, Frank's drinking water came from the nearby

slough. Then later with the help of Mont New they dug a well which was about three feet square and 66 feet deep to a seam of water bearing sand. Mont hauled up the dirt in a bucket by a windlass made from a trunk of a tree. To make sure that they were digging straight down they used a plumb-bob. About 40 feet down the plumb-bob slipped and grazed the back of Frank's head. Mont later told us that the sweetest words he ever heard was Frank yelling up, bawling him out. Later at 66 feet another neighbour let a board slip. Frank heard it coming and managed to dodge it. There were dangers even in those unmechanized times.



Mrs. Ceasar (grandmother), Annie, Doris, Mother Ford, Frank and George.

He broke four acres of prairie land the first year and he sowed it broadcast (by hand), and dragged a pile of willow brush with the oxen to harrow it in. When the grain was ripe he cut it with a scythe into small bunches, then twisted stalks of grain together to form bands for tying the grain into sheaves. When it was cured, after it had been stooked, it was threshed with a flail, and the chaff separated by the wind. The next year he bought a six foot cut Deering binder.

Frank and William New worked on the steel work of the Battle River bridge. Frank stayed in a tent in the winter. They said that some days it was 50° below outside and very cold inside. The moment the fire in the heater went out the temperature was extremely cold. There were three men drowned during the building of the bridge.

Coultmans started a post office and Frank got his mail there. Sometimes he rode an oxen the five miles but walking was quicker.

In the fall of 1911 Frank returned to South Wales to marry his boyhood sweetheart, Miss Emily Caesar. In the spring of 1912 they came to the homestead and started housekeeping in a 12x16 frame building. Irma came into being the same year so they were closer to a town.

Emily's mother, Mrs. Selina Caesar, although in her sixties decided to come to Canada to help in the house while Emily was out helping with the farm work.

By this time the railroad was through Irma, but the travel agency in the British Isles thought Hardisty was the



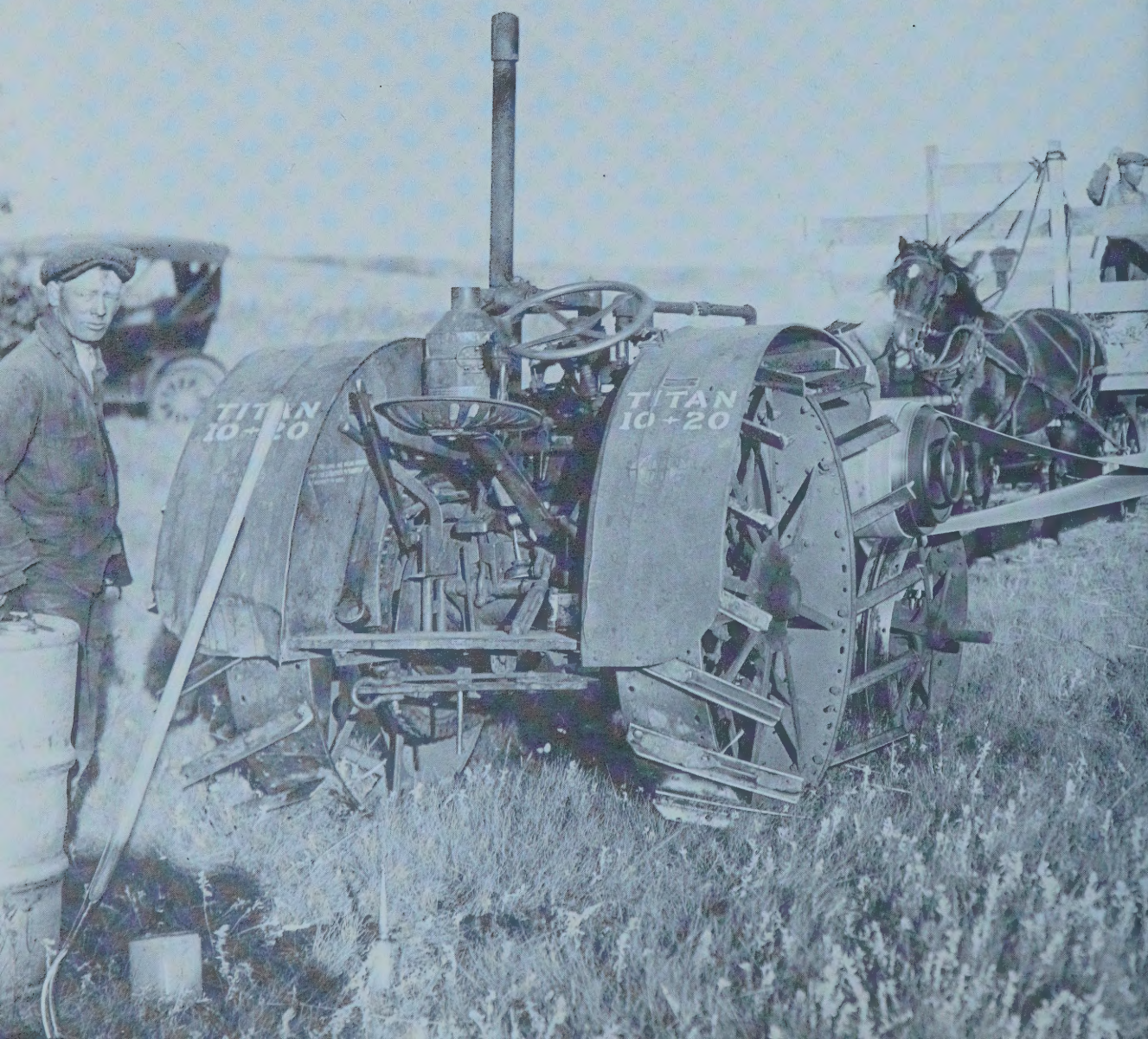
Francis Ford, Sr.

nearest rail station, and sent her there. Dad had to travel over 30 miles one way with a team of oxen, moving a little over 2 miles per hour, to pick her up. He said later that he nearly killed the oxen on that trip. I wonder what our Grandmother's thoughts were on that long trip. First a long ocean voyage, then more than a week sitting on a lumber slatted seat of the railroad car with cinders from the engine flying in every time you opened the window, and then landing in the middle of "no-where". She stuck with it and helped rear the family of two boys and two girls, George, Frank, Annie and Doris. She had only three days of school, yet she taught herself to read much of the Bible. She made it her guide book for rearing children as well as instruction for her own life. When the youngest child was seven, Emily, the mother passed away on April 21st, 1926, (the same day as our present Queen was born). Most of the care of rearing the children was left to the Grandmother. Selina passed away in 1939 in her 90th year. Our father, Frank, passed away in 1965 at the age of 80.

Annie married Richard Schieck, now living at Vernon, B.C. Doris married Fred Younker now living north of Irma. Frank married Alma Younker. Alma is living on a farm north of Irma (Frank passed away in 1976), and George married Joan Eeles, now living north of Irma.

After the death of his first wife, Emily, Frank remained single until the spring of 1953, when he married Pearl Symons, daughter of Samuel Symons, who farmed northeast of Fabyan. They lived on the farm where Frank passed away in 1965. Pearl remained on the farm for a number of years then moved to the Battle River Lodge where she still resides.

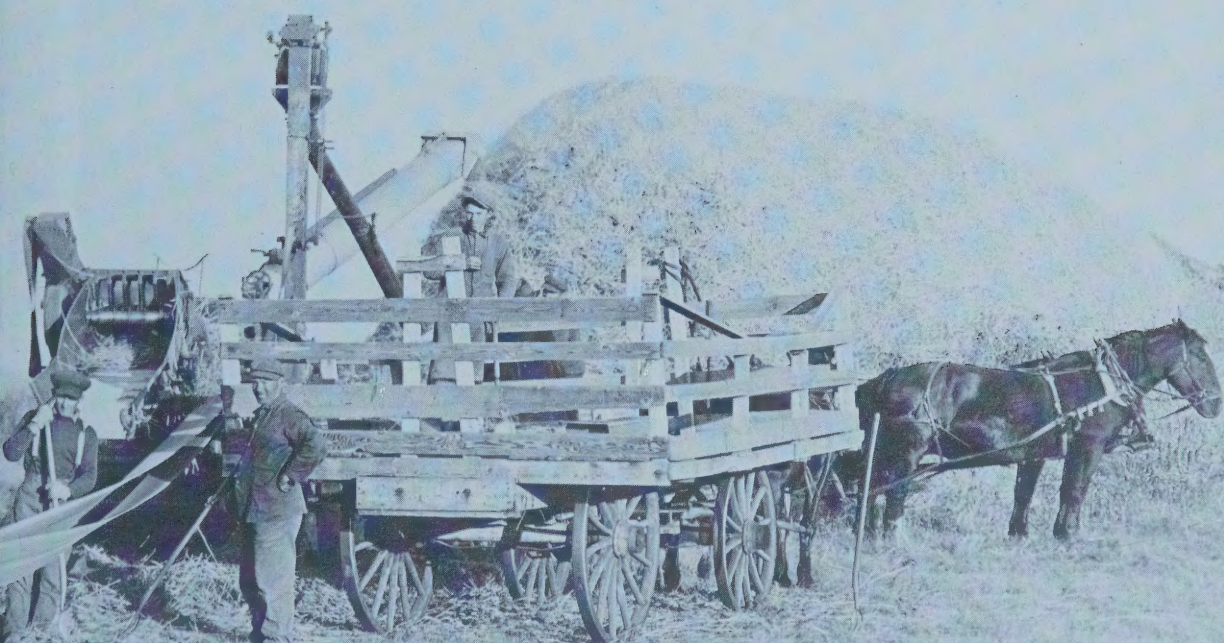
George and Joan's family -- Edward married Nola Hill. They live on the farm and he sells machinery for Tri. Ag Farm Equipment. Paul married Laura Bradford and they live on the farm. Donald married Esther Ford and they also farm. Ronald married Audrey Hettinger. They are studying in preparation to be missionaries among the Indian people of the north. Ruth, the only daughter, is single and taking studies at Prairie Bible Institute at the present time.



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John and Elmer Erickson.

